



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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**CSCE Minsk Group Head Views
Nagorno-Karabakh**

LD0803220594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2147
GMT 8 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kuzmin]

[Text] Vienna March 9 TASS—The international community should take active steps in order to resolve the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh and stop the bloodshed in the region as soon as possible, said Jan Eliasson, chairman of the Minsk group for Karabakh settlement of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Speaking at a news conference in Vienna on Tuesday, Eliasson said that during his trip to the war zone he had met with Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Both leaders called for the soonest possible end to the bloodshed. However, they have different approaches towards ways of solving the conflict, Eliasson said.

The Swedish diplomat believes the conflict cannot be solved by military means and called for looking for a political stage-by-stage settlement which should involve exchange of prisoners and creating conditions for the return of refugees. The problem of the disputed enclave's political status remains the biggest stumbling block. Solving this problem will require coordination of peace initiatives. Eliasson said he had had talks with Russian officials to this end.

The Azerbaijani president said earlier today in Beijing where he is currently on a visit that the reconsideration of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh was conditioned on certain terms. Among them he named "unconditional withdrawal of Armenian armed units from the occupied territory of Azerbaijan, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders."

Eliasson said that the CSCE Minsk group sees its role in sending representatives to the region to monitor cease-fire and to help find a political solution to the conflict. The proposal about CSCE observers is welcomed by all sides, including Russia, the ambassador pointed out.

At the same time he said the CSCE did not yet look deep into the question of bringing a disengagement force to the region. "We could also assist in the withdrawal of troops, normalisation of communications and trade, the return of refugees, and humanitarian aid matters", he said.

Eliasson said the success of peace settlement will depend on whether the sides involved in the conflict will manage to overcome mutual suspiciousness between the conflicting sides, build confidence in the military, political and humanitarian areas, including in cooperation with the International Red Cross Committee, and display "reasonable political will."

The ambassador pointed out that all who can influence the situation must work together and concertedly. This is why, he said, "We closely cooperate with Russia as a big mediator in the region".

NATO's Gen Waters Interviewed

PM0803162194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in
Russian 5 Mar 94 First Edition p 6

[Vladimir Klimov report: "NATO: Hawk or Dove? How the North Atlantic Alliance Is Transforming Itself"]

[Text] He is married with three sons. He likes reading, singing, and drawing. He goes skating and yachting. A brief sketch of the private life of...no, not of a flourishing representative of the bohemian way of life, nor of a rich heir. We are talking about NATO's number three—General John Waters, deputy supreme commander in chief of NATO Joint Armed Forces in Europe.

My meeting with him took place at the M.V. Frunze Military Academy. Gen. Waters had come to Moscow to lecture on the transformation of NATO, the change in the strategic concept of the North Atlantic alliance, and its future role.

A new page in NATO's history was opened in November 1991. The heads of state and government of the NATO member countries issued the Declaration on Peace and Cooperation. What did this mean? Nothing less than the end of the "cold war."

However, Gen. Waters believes that when the threat of a major war disappeared, petty conflicts being to flare up more frequently, mainly over ethnic disagreements. How are they to be averted, and how is regional peace and stability to be consolidated? These are the questions facing NATO leaders today. It was to resolve these issues that the "Partnership for Peace" initiative was born. Gen. Waters said that he is not a politician but a soldier, and, for him, this initiative means only one thing—the capacity to act jointly to consolidate peace in regions of confrontation. Armed forces may be required in these conditions, but their direct employment depends on the circumstances arising on the ground. In the main, servicemen will fulfill other functions in conflict regions: protecting people from starvation, providing them with humanitarian and medical aid, and rescuing people during natural disasters.

As a whole the North Atlantic alliance's strategic concept is defined by a broader approach to security, an approach based on dialogue, cooperation, and maintaining the capacity for collective defense. This concept also envisages substantial changes in NATO's Joint Armed Forces.

The goal has changed, and the means of achieving it are also changing. The new structure of the armed forces, whose formation will be completed in 1995, assigns the

major role to multinational formations. They will be provided to support UN or CSCE peacekeeping missions.

The reconstruction of the NATO Armed Forces entails their reduction by 25 percent by 1997. The main reduction will be in the ground forces. In NATO's central region the reduction will be 45 percent. True, at the same time the number of reserve units will be somewhat increased.

So, what will the North Atlantic alliance become now, an alliance which in the old Soviet history was never called anything but aggressive and hawkish? However substantive the changes in the NATO Armed Forces, it is clear that these forces will still be sufficiently powerful, and the hawk's claws and beak have by no means been blunted.

The most obvious illustration of this is the former Yugoslavia and the current crisis in Bosnia. Gen. Waters was asked how the decision on air strikes against the Serbs was arrived at. He explained at length the so-called two-shoulder method, which boils down to the adoption of first and foremost a political decision at the highest international level on the basis of specific proposals from the military leadership on the ground. With evident relief the general acknowledged that this decision is now the property of history.

He gave due credit to the Russian peacekeeping battalion, which managed to complete its march to Sarajevo in difficult conditions. The combat training of Russian soldiers is of a high standard, the general remarked.

Human Rights Envoy on Russians Abroad, Cuba, DPRK

LD0803200994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 8 March—"Developing countries and states must not be left on their own to cope with their difficulties on the path of the creation of democratic societies." This was stated today in an address at the 50th daily session of the UN Commission on Human Rights by the head of the Russian delegation, the human rights representative of the Russian Federation Sergey Kovalev. After stressing that "Russia, too, is facing plenty of transition period problems and difficulties," he thanked countries and international organizations which had sent observers to the parliamentary elections and the referendum on the new Constitution of the Russian Federation for their assistance.

The Russian representative said that "fruitful contacts" had been established with the Council of Europe, the Center for Human Rights [as heard], the United States, the European countries, and Australia. More than 30 non-government organizations, including "Amnesty

International" and "Helsinki Watch," had opened missions in the Russian Federation. "We welcome in every possible way intervention of this kind in Russia's internal affairs and believe that the more vigorous and the more large-scale it is, the more hopes and guarantees there will be that the internal life of Russian society will change for the better."

"We hope that our partners will not be indifferent to a problem which is so painful for Russians like the situation of their compatriots in the countries which previously were part of the Soviet Union, including Latvia and Estonia. Not only Russia's democratic future, but also the fate of many states which were formed after the break-up of the USSR, and in the final analysis, international peace and security, depend on how timely and clear their voice is."

After touching on the situation in the Yugoslav conflict zone, Sergey Kovalev stressed that the presence of Russian soldiers and officers in Sarajevo is "an example of Russia's sincere interest in a peaceful settlement of the crisis in former Yugoslavia." Russian servicemen had come to the Bosnian capital in order to "prevent further suffering and death in this town." He warned against an unbalanced approach towards the Yugoslav crisis and attempts to blame one of the conflicting sides for everything, "to play down the crimes by one side and to indulge yet another side." Inevitably such an approach "will hamper the possibility of a peaceful settlement of the conflict and will undermine trust in the Commission on Human Rights."

The address voiced concern at the situation in the human rights sphere in Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, and Afghanistan. "So far the problem of the release of former servicemen has not been resolved," the head of the delegation said. "Some Afghanistani politicians are continuing to block this issue. Our position is that the problem of prisoners of war is of a strictly humanitarian nature and needs to be solved immediately and without linkage to any conditions whatsoever."

"We are disappointed by the lack of progress in ensuring human rights in Cuba, for whose people Russia has the warmest feelings," Sergey Kovalev said. "We call on the Cuban authorities to ensure democratic rights and freedoms and also to establish cooperation with the Commission's special rapporteur."

After recalling that at the 48th session of the Commission on Human Rights the Russian delegation "had raised the issue of the arbitrariness of the state bodies of North Korea vis-a-vis DPRK citizens at timber procurement enterprises in Russia," he said that "at the Russian side's initiative the bilateral agreement between Russian and the DPRK on cooperation in the sphere of timber procurement, in spite of considerable financial advantages, had been cancelled." In future such an agreement is possible only "given the observance of the rights and freedoms of the individual and the respect of Russian legislation."

Yeltsin Refuses To Meet With Richard Nixon

Cites Talks With Opposition as Reason

LD0903122794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1143 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Mar—Boris Yeltsin has refused to receive the former U.S. President, Richard Nixon, who is paying an unofficial visit to Russia. He announced this during a short conversation with journalists at the Kremlin Wall, after the laying of wreaths at the grave of Yuriy Gagarin.

The Russian president said that: Nixon has met Rutskoy and Zyuganov, but the interesting thing is that he came here to meet me. After that, Yeltsin noted: I will not meet Nixon, the government will not receive him, and Filatov [Yeltsin's chief of staff] will not receive him.

It should be realized that Russia is a great country. It simply cannot be played around with like that, the president said, noting: I am impressed by the position taken by Bill Clinton, because he phoned me and distanced himself from Richard Nixon's trip."

Referring to Russian-U.S. relations, Yeltsin said that the two countries' foreign ministers were due to meet in Vladivostok shortly. He stated that: The U.S.-Russian partnership must be preserved and developed. The president noted that Russian-U.S. partnership: Is a great achievement that we worked very hard for, and we must not lose it. Moreover, I am convinced that we will not lose it, Yeltsin stressed.

Asked by the journalists about the Ames scandal in the United States, Yeltsin said: I would not like to draw any dramatic conclusions from this. He expressed hope that it should not and will not affect Russian-U.S. relations. Yeltsin believes that one should not get upset about the fact that both countries are conducting intelligence work.

Chernomyrdin, Filatov Cancel Talks

LD0903114494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1130 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and presidential chief of staff Sergey Filatov have called off their scheduled meetings with visiting ex-President of the United States Richard Nixon.

Kremlin sources, who said earlier that President Boris Yeltsin's meeting with Nixon was now "problematic", have just told ITAR-TASS that the Russian president has refused to meet the American visitor.

Competent sources told ITAR-TASS that the cancellation of these meetings was decided after the former

American president met former Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, amnestied recently.

Nixon's initiative must have been seen as a sign of disrespect for the political will of the Russian leadership.

On Tuesday, Richard Nixon told journalists that Russian authorities had not hampered his contacts with the leaders of the oppositional forces.

But to all appearances, after demonstrating their democratic thinking, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Sergey Filatov reserved the right to view Nixon's contacts with opposition leaders, including one of the organisers of the armed resistance to President Yeltsin last autumn, as they saw fit.

Nixon Talks With Opposition Lauded

LD0903140594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1146 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] The fact that Russian Communist Leader Gennadiy Zyuganov met former U.S. President Richard Nixon proves that the U.S. leadership wants to "understand Russian reality better." This will give a more realistic picture to U.S. official circles, the Communist Party's press service announced.

Zyuganov pointed out that the Russian Communist Party and all Russian patriotic movements were "concerned over the inflexible approach of the U.S. to Russian political forces and believed that the growth in anti-American sentiment in Russia and the U.S. unconditional support for the present unpopular executive power have something in common."

Commenting on the situation in Russia, the Communist leader suggested that the shock-therapy policy was dangerous for Russia and could provoke social unrest. However, he said the Russian Communist Party rejected both the right and the left radicalism and was ready to cooperate with any political forces which stood for "restoration of a strong Russia as a guarantee for peace and stability in the whole world."

Nixon had a conversation with former vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy who had been released on February 26 in accordance with the resolution on political amnesty.

The ex-U.S. president also met with the leader of the Russian Unity and Concord's parliamentary faction, Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policies, Sergey Shakhray.

A meeting between Nixon and the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) Leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is also expected.

As it was earlier reported, the LDP received 63 seats in the State Duma after the December parliamentary elections.

Bosnian, Croatian Leaders Arrive for Moscow Talks

LD0903092494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0748 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Russia continues to play an important role in settling the Bosnian crisis. On Wednesday and Thursday, Moscow will be the site of important meetings, which are expected to build upon Russia's initiatives aimed at settling the crisis.

Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic of Bosnia-Herzegovina was the first to arrive here at about four a.m. on Wednesday.

Silajdzic came from France, where he was on a working visit.

The Bosnian Government pins great hopes on the fact that the present Russian leadership strives for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic, Silajdzic told ITAR-TASS on the eve of his departure for Moscow.

Croatian deputy prime minister, Foreign Minister Mate Granic is to arrive in Moscow on Wednesday afternoon.

According to sources at the Croatian Embassy in Moscow, Granic will spend only a few busy hours in Russia's capital.

Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta is to arrive here aboard a chartered military aircraft in the evening. According to the Italian Foreign Ministry, he will stay in Moscow for a day.

Russo-Italian negotiations are expected to focus, among other things, on the Bosnian problem and international efforts aimed at its settlement. Andreatta is at present chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Kozyrev, Silajdzic Begin Talks

LD0903105194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0946 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Beskromnyy and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Mar—A wide range of issues relating to ways to settle the Bosnian crisis are being discussed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Their talks have just started in Moscow. The head of the Bosnian Government arrived here during the night from France, where he has been on a working visit.

Mate Granic, Croatian deputy head of government and foreign minister, is expected in Moscow later today.

Kozyrev is to give a news conference in the afternoon following his meetings with the Bosnian and Croatian representatives.

View Talks as Positive

LD0903133594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1243 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Beskromnyy]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Mar—There has been encouraging progress recently in the Bosnian settlement in several directions. It is important to build up on the positive impulse and try to reaffirm, rather than lose it, noted Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on summing up his almost two-hours long discussion today with the Prime Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina Haris Silajdzic, who has arrived in Moscow. Russia's top diplomat described the talks as fruitful.

This positive assessment was also shared by his Bosnian counterpart. Saying that there are now prerequisites for resolving the conflict, he added: This momentum should not be lost.

We expect that the Russian Government will play a constructive role in continuing the talks on Bosnia, stated Silajdzic. Simultaneously, the prime minister spoke in favor of a more balanced Russian policy in some aspects of the Yugoslav crisis. We hope that the Russian battalion stationed around Sarajevo will play a positive role and make it possible to preserve the multi-ethnic nature of that city, he went on to say.

On the agreement to establish a Croat-Muslim federation, which has been achieved, he said that this agreement excludes no one. Obviously, its implementation is impossible without the Serbs, he pointed out. We made it clear that our agreement will also be offered to the Serb side. It is quite possible at the same time that now it is not ready to accept it. In this scenario, we will develop a new version, but it will still be based on the main premise—the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Russia Rejects 'Discriminatory Approach'

LD0903144294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1330 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Beskromnyy]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Mar—Lately there has been encouraging progress in several areas toward a settlement of the Bosnian crisis. The important thing now is not to lose, but on the contrary, to develop the positive impetus and try to consolidate it. This was stressed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev when he took stock of the almost two-hour long talks he held today with Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic,

who is visiting Moscow. The Russian foreign minister described the talks as fruitful and frank.

The Bosnian guest shared the positive appraisal. Noting that prerequisites have emerged for settling the conflict, Silajdzic added: The opportunity must not be lost. It is time to move toward the establishment of peace in Bosnia.

We expect the Russian Government to play a constructive role in the continuation of the talks on Bosnia, Silajdzic said. At the same time the prime minister called for Russia to pursue a more balanced policy toward certain aspects of the Yugoslav crisis. We hope, he added, that the Russian battalion deployed around Sarajevo will play a positive role and make it possible to preserve Sarajevo as a multiethnic city.

For his part, Kozyrev said that Russian diplomacy always maintains a balanced stance with regard to the Yugoslav conflict. The minister stressed: We reject the discriminatory approach to the peoples of the former Yugoslavia and particularly Bosnia-Herzegovina. All these peoples and ethnic groups are near and dear to the Russians.

Regarding the reaching of an accord on the formation of a Croatian-Muslim federation, Silajdzic stressed that this agreement excludes no one. Of course, he indicated, it could not be implemented without the Serbs' consent. We clearly stated that our agreement would also be proposed to the Serb side. At the same time, it is quite possible that at the moment they are not ready to accept it. In that case, we will find some other option that is nonetheless based on the main thing—namely the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Silajdzic said that during his meeting with Kozyrev a whole range of issues of bilateral Bosnian-Russian relations were discussed. The prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina called, in particular, for the development of cultural cooperation.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned that Silajdzic is to depart from Moscow at about 1630 today.

Grachev Departs for Military Talks in Germany
LD0903093294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0831 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev left Moscow for Germany today for talks on military cooperation between the two countries.

The minister is also scheduled to discuss the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany.

Grachev and his German opposite number Volker Ruehe are expected to focus on European security and

Russia's role in the partnership for peace project, as well as on interactions of their peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia.

Grachev will lay a wreath to the monument to Soviet soldiers in Tiergarten, and visit the 31st Bundeswehr Paratrooper Brigade in Oldenburg and the Lehenin testing site to get first-hand knowledge of Bundeswehr combat training.

The visit will last through March 11.

Plan To Move Koreans Residing in Sakhalin Viewed

SK0803132394 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 7 Mar 94

[From the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society has recently issued a statement in connection with the fact that the Seoul authorities have attempted to take Koreans residing in Sakhalin to the ROK. Regarding this, Mr. (Yi Genari), chairman of the Russian Branch of the Pominnyon International Committee to Promote Korean Reunification, came today to our Moscow radio station and spoke as follows:

[Begin (Yi Genari) recording, in Russian with simultaneous translation into Korean] First of all, I would like to remind you that there are approximately 500,000 Koreans in the territory of the former USSR. Among them, over 120,000 Koreans—including scholars, artists, well-educated doctors, technicians, and agricultural officials—live in Russia. All of them are now living and working in and greatly contributing to the economic, scientific, and cultural development of the CIS countries. All of them are deeply rooted in this land.

Speaking of the Koreans living in Sakhalin, all of them are workers who were forcibly taken into Sakhalin by the then Japanese imperialist aggressors from North and South Korea between 1938 and 1945. After the Japanese imperialists were defeated during WW II, the Japanese people who lived in Sakhalin were the only ones able to return to their home, but the Koreans had to stay there without their jobs. According to data provided by the Korean Association in Sakhalin, there are 1,700 Korean households in Sakhalin whose members were forced to live there before 1945. They are separated from their family members.

After receiving the statement issued by the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, I have come to believe that the problems of Koreans in Sakhalin should be jointly solved by Russia and the DPRK, only after the Japanese Government makes an official apology for its past act of forcibly taking them into Sakhalin and makes compensations for it. Therefore, the issue of Korean immigration from Sakhalin is not a matter of humanitarianism as demanded by Seoul, but rather has emerged as a political matter.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society for the protection of the interest of all Koreans, those who live in North and South Korea, as well as in foreign countries, including the CIS countries. [end recording]

Russian, Indian Official Discuss Arms Sales

OW0903084794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 8 Mar 94

[V. Tkachenko and O. Nikiforov military TV video report; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] Military technical cooperation between Russia and India is continuing. This year the Indian budget envisages an increase of 20 percent in this area. Many link this fact with the purchase of Russian tanks. The question of whether India will actually purchase tanks from Russia or build them using our technology was discussed at a news conference at the Russian Ministry of Defense held by Vladimir Semenov, commander of the ground forces, as part of a return visit of his Indian colleague, Mr. Joshi. [Video shows Colonel Semenov and Joshi addressing news conference]

The main details pertaining to the signing of the Russian-Indian documents will be discussed at the level of the ministers of defense of the two countries, but it can already be said today that India will become a reliable partner in the sphere of exports of Russian military equipment and weapons. [Video shows Semenov speaking to camera]

[Begin Semenov recording] We have been linked over the past 34 years by friendly relations in the sphere of military technical cooperation. In its time the Soviet Union did much to maintain India's defense capability at the proper level. But in recent years, the past three or four years, our mutual relations have weakened somewhat. The main aim of my visit to India and I think the reason for General Joshi's visit to Russia is to elevate

mutual relations between the Russian Army and the Indian Army to a qualitatively new level. [end recording]

Economics Ministry on 'Tougher' Reaction to Ukraine

LD0803155994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Russia will "tougher react" to Ukraine's unauthorized use of part of Russian gas exported to Western Europe, the Russian Economics Ministry told Interfax.

According to "Gazprom," Ukraine continues to syphon off up to 25 percent of Russian gas which goes to West Europe through the Ukrainian territory. As a result, "Gazprom" has to pay big fines to foreign consumers of Russian gas. Russia's hard currency losses amount to half a million dollars a day, the ministry experts said.

Well-informed sources in the same ministry told Interfax that Russia may demand Kiev pay the fines to foreign partners and reimburse its debt for Russian gas already delivered that experts estimate at 1.5 Tn rubles.

In addition, Moscow intends to demand guarantees of free transit of its gas through the Ukrainian territory at the talks between the heads of the Russian and Ukrainian gas complexes scheduled for March 10.

Paris Club Defers Partial Debt Repayment

LD0903135794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The states that are Russia's creditors, united within the framework of the Paris Club, have agreed to prolong by four months the period of repayment of part of the Russian foreign debt amounting to \$15 billion. The postponement applies both to the repayment of part of the credits and to the interest on them. All in all, Russia must repay \$2-3 billion during the first four months of this year. However, the Paris Club has not calculated the exact amount yet.

Political Issues

Yeltsin: 'Russia Will Not Import Grain'

LD0903151094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1414 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Mar—"For the first time in three or four decades, Russia will not import grain, linen or wool this year." This was stated to journalists by Russian President Boris Yeltsin following the wreath-laying ceremony at Yuriy Gagarin's tomb at the Kremlin Wall.

Boris Yeltsin noted that "we have enough grain to last us until the new harvest." He also emphasized that whereas three years ago "we talked about famine, today we are saying that food will be fully provided."

The Russian president also said that currently "we are interested in achieving variety and quality to match foreign standards, as well as in tackling the issue of prices." "This is what we will be working on," the president stressed.

Yeltsin Summons Leaders To Draw Up Civil Accord Memo

LD0903125294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1156 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Mar—"We must draw up a document on civic accord between various movements, parliamentary groups, and branches of power." This was said by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who was speaking to journalists after a wreath-laying ceremony at Yuriy Gagarin's tomb by the Kremlin Wall.

In Boris Yeltsin's words, the idea of concluding a civic accord memorandum has been backed by the State Duma, the Federation Council, the government, and by many parliamentary groups.

Boris Yeltsin said: "At 1000 hours tomorrow, I summon heads of organizations to agree on the drafting of the text itself."

Boris Yeltsin noted the need for "all the strata of our society to take part" in drawing up the memorandum, "so that it really is a civic accord." "And after that, we are going to sign it," the president said.

Yeltsin Aide on Post-Amnesty Program

PM0803142794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with presidential aide Georgiy Satarov by Vasily Kononenko; place, date not given: "Power Ministry Structures Will Keep Tabs on Those Released From Lefortovo and Their Supporters"]

[Text] The news that the presidential apparatus and the State Duma apparatus are preparing a draft supplement to the amnesty decree which has caused so much uproar has been interpreted by the public as a belated attempt to create a semblance of peace between the executive and legislative branches. Meanwhile your IZVESTIYA correspondent has been able to elucidate that a compromise regarding future cooperation between the branches of power has nevertheless been reached at recent meetings with the leaders of the two Federal Assembly chambers, I. Rybkin and V. Shumeyko. Consequently two groups comprising deputies and experts from the presidential apparatus are currently working on a draft new State Duma decree. Presidential aide G. Satarov described the significance of the forthcoming document (there may actually be two) and the objectives of the work.

[Kononenko] Georgiy Aleksandrovich, whose initiative was it to adopt yet another decree in pursuit of the end which enabled the organizers of the revolt to leave Lefortovo?

[Satarov] The president's, of course. He mentioned this in his letter to the State Duma dated 26 February, i.e. the letter he sent on that sad Saturday. In that letter the president expressed his regret at the form in which the amnesty decree had been adopted, and also set out two proposals. The first suggested additional work on the amnesty decree with a view to making it conform fully with the Russian Federation Constitution and legislation. The second proposed adopting a memorandum on a system of forms, criteria, and a mechanism designed to make politicians liable for ensuring civil peace and harmony. At the present time the outline of a joint memorandum envisaging the liability of individual parties and all branches of power for their actions and the situation in the country is being sketched out.

[Kononenko] Did the president's 28 February meeting with the parliamentary chamber leaders provide the impetus for this cooperation?

[Satarov] You could say that, since the preliminary agreements were finally coordinated at these meetings. First of all it was decided to set up working groups comprising representatives of the president, the lower chamber, and the Prosecutor's Office to formulate a supplementary State Duma decree. Second, agreement was reached on future working arrangements with the aim of insuring against a repetition of similar explosive situations; specifically, such situations should be discussed beforehand at the level of working groups when formulating extremely important decisions and draft laws. Third, they agreed on the need to minimize the damage to the sociopolitical situation caused by the amnesty decree.

[Kononenko] By what means?

[Satarov] Political and juridical. It was decided to explain to those who have benefited from the amnesty that they should not view the State Duma decree as some sort of political victory and that their earlier forms of

activity are currently not needed by society. At I. Rybkin's suggestion, this task should be carried out by the factions of the lower chamber. Moreover, the General Prosecutor's Office is obliged to warn those who have benefited from the amnesty that they could be penalized if they break the amnesty terms. Finally, they should be notified that the appropriate services will be carefully following their every move. In the event of the slightest infringement of the law, both the president and the State Duma intend to clamp down on them in an extremely resolute fashion. We will not allow anything to get out of hand, and we will not tolerate any lawlessness that could lead to an explosive situation.

[Kononenko] So are tabs currently being kept on the released prisoners?

[Satarov] We have been watching them ever since they left jail.

[Kononenko] During consultations over the last few days you have met with rank-and-file deputies and senior office-holders in the State Duma. Do you not get the feeling that those who voted for the amnesty are now rethinking certain points?

[Satarov] One can note a certain alarm, a realization of the fact that they have made themselves hostages to the released prisoners' behavior.

[Kononenko] At a 28 February briefing you announced that the president has a short-term action plan. A television address has not been ruled out. But for the time being he has taken no steps.

[Satarov] We are talking about planned rather than extraordinary actions. For example, a list of priority legislative initiatives has already been sent to parliament along with a timetable for their submission. A plan of measures designed to resolve urgent social and economic problems has also been prepared, and so forth.

[Kononenko] Ye. Gaydar has called on democrats to rally round in the face of the threat to civil peace in Russia. Do you share his view?

[Satarov] Absolutely. The fact is that the establishment of a democratic state is far from completed, and in the current situation revanchists will always be tempted to exploit this fact. We need to consolidate the state—as the president said in his message—and ensure a democratic basis for the reforms.

Sobchak Expresses Views on Amnesty, Zhirinovskiy

AU0803174994 Munich FOCUS in German 7 Feb 94 p 270

[Interview with St Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak by Caroline Mascher; place and date not given: "Deliberate Exaggeration"]

[Text] [Mascher] Mr. Sobchak, is the amnesty for the putschists endangering Russia's stability?

[Sobchak] These men brought themselves so much into discredit, at the latest with the putsch, that they will no longer play a serious role in politics. If they are really innocent, as they are claiming, they could have had that confirmed before court. Amnesty can only be granted to people who are guilty.

[Mascher] It is said that Rutskoy might be built up as an identification figure for the humiliated masses....

[Sobchak] You know, I know Rutskoy personally. He is an extremely narrow-minded man with great ambition, but little intelligence. He is not a statesman, but always remains on the level of a division commander. All the time, he only executes orders.

[Mascher] In his speech before the Duma, President Yeltsin made great concessions to the opposition and forces hostile to reforms....

[Sobchak] Yes, that is true. But there is also a new opposition. The previous one openly called for Yeltsin's removal. Therefore, he behaved differently toward it, but he was still not tough enough. In his place, I would have dissolved the parliament as early as April after the successful referendum. However, Yeltsin is unfortunately unable to use the results of his victories. This was also the case in August 1991. Today we have a completely different situation. The opposition is no longer intransigent, people like Gaydar or Yavlinskiy are also in the opposition. Therefore, Yeltsin is behaving differently.

[Mascher] But the amnesty was a provocation....

[Sobchak] Yes, of course, the Duma challenged the president. However, I believe that an aggressive confrontation between the president and the parliament no longer makes any sense today because the new constitution is already effective.

[Mascher] That is to say, one is not afraid of politicians like Zhirinovskiy?

[Sobchak] His importance is above all exaggerated in the West. He has hardly any influence in the Duma, whereas people such as the communist Zyuganov, Lapshin from the Peasant Party, or Gaydar are influential.

I think that the West is not reacting like this by chance. It wants to justify its inactivity—the lack of real help and cooperation. So far, Russia has received the promised loans neither from the United States nor from the European Union, only the time allowed for the repayment of debts has been extended and tied loans for buying grain from the Americans have been granted. That is to say, Washington is supporting its own farmers, but not Russia. Then we have to repay these funds at a high interest.

The West is not only interested in Zhirinovsky because of his scandalous appearances. It is not openly said, but some politicians take the view that the weaker Russia is, the better it is for the West, as it would no longer be a threat. This is an incorrect assessment that could dangerously disturb the balance of forces.

Chechen Leader Assails State Duma Amnesty
LD0803171394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Chechnya President Dzhokhar Dudayev said that the Russian State Duma's amnesty was "an illegitimate child." In an exclusive interview he told Interfax that by using its constitutional right to declare an amnesty the Duma "hit Russian society where it hurts. This will obviously stir up confrontation processes in Russia."

In his words, "without legally evaluating the activities of state criminals who were guilty of organizing the shelling of the former Supreme Soviet, the Duma members and some senior officials wanted to be rehabilitated in order to escape responsibility. This action makes more confrontation and destabilization possible with a view to removing the leading political figures, Rutskoy, Khasbulatov and Makashov, with simultaneous threat of retribution if these men stage a comeback."

He forecast that "the next step will be an all-out assault on the Presidency. When nearly everybody tries to unseat him, the Russian president will find it hard to stay in power. The scenario of these activities includes neutralizing Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin to be followed by discrediting and removing him from the political scene."

The Chechen leader appreciated the stance of former prosecutor general Aleksey Kazannik as that of a "courageous and honest man who cannot trifle with the law even once."

Communist Bodies Discuss Unification Issues
PM0803145594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "One More Step Toward Unity"]

[Text] A meeting of the Political Executive Committee of the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU [UCP-CPSU] Council and the Secretariat of the Russian Communist Workers Party [RCWP] Central Committee has taken place. Questions of joint actions to implement the decisions of the 29th CPSU Congress and the Third RCWP Congress were examined at it. The discussion confirmed the unity of views of the UCP-CPSU and the RCWP on the following basic issues:

—the transfer of political power into the hands of the workers and the restoration of the soviets as the highest form of democracy;

—the struggle against the restoration of capitalism, and the country's return to the socialist path of development;

—the repeal of the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements and the restoration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The UCP-CPSU and the RCWP regard the ruling regime in Russia and the imposed Constitution as antipeople elements and will jointly endeavor to have the Constitution's adoption judged unlawful at the Russian Federation Supreme Court.

In response to the propaganda hysteria surrounding the political amnesty, participants in the meeting stated that they categorically reject violence as a means of resolving social problems. The UCP-CPSU and the RCWP consider that national accord and the establishment of capitalism by force are incompatible. It is not the political amnesty which is provoking a civil war but unemployment, hunger, the plunder of the people's property, the poverty of millions of working people, and the monstrous enrichment of a few people.

The RCWP's admission to the UCP-CPSU as an associate member is regarded as a step toward rallying the Soviet Union's communists. It was noted that the unification of communists is being hindered by the opportunist tendencies remaining within it. It was emphasized that it is essential to concentrate efforts on creating in the future a single Communist Party of Russia based on Marxist-Leninist principles. Such a party could take as its basis the current programs of the UCP-CPSU, the RCWP, and other parties.

The path to the organizational unification of the communist parties existing today lies in extending unity of action in the struggle to defend the working people's interests. The UCP-CPSU and the RCWP will use in this struggle all means and methods (both parliamentary and extraparlimentary) known from the practice of the world communist movement, and will consider the development of an organized workers resistance [organizovannoye rabocheye soprotivleniye] as a task of the utmost importance.

Anpilov Calls For Single Strong Communist Party
LD0803141294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1403 GMT 8 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow March 8 TASS—Russian communist hardliner Viktor Anpilov has called on all communist movements of Russia to unite into one strong party on the basis of principles of Marxism-Leninism.

Anpilov, leader of the Labour Russia Party and the Russian Communist Labour Party who was put in jail after the October 1993 revolt in Moscow and released under amnesty in February, said he wanted to set up one

communist party based on the principles of communist ideology proclaimed by its founders Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin.

Anpilov took part in a rally devoted to International Women's Day traditionally celebrated in Russia on March 8. The rally was attended by about 1,000 people, according to the police. The demonstrators called for stronger state guarantees for the family and return to regulated prices of basic necessities.

The Labour Russia Party said it will hold a congress at the end of April.

Workings of Revised Citizenship Law Viewed

PM0803171594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 4 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Karkhanin: "In Search of Justice. How Are the Amendments to the Law on Russian Citizenship Functioning?"]

[Text] It is around seven months since this law was amended and amplified, so some conclusions can now be drawn. It was the topic of a seminar organized in Moscow by the leadership of the Russian Federation Presidential Commission on Citizenship Affairs. Representatives of regional administrations and internal affairs organs participated in the discussion.

"The amendments are not functioning effectively everywhere, in some places the local authorities prefer to operate in the old way," Commission Chairman Abdulakh Mikitayev told your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent. "Yet there has been a marked reduction in the flow of complaints and appeals to the president in connection with citizenship problems. So more often than not people are able to find help locally on the basis of the law: in Russian consulates abroad and through the internal affairs organs in Russia. Complaints from 'first'- and 'second'-wave emigres in the more remote foreign countries have virtually dried up: People there are now entitled to obtain Russian citizenship by registration, while remaining citizens of the country where they currently live."

Russian-speaking inhabitants of the Baltic countries are particularly active in taking advantage of this opportunity. So far 40,000 people in Estonia and 20,000 in Latvia have obtained the relevant stamp or insert in their passports. There are many waiting in the wings in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, but the situation is complicated by the fact that the network of Russian consulates is not yet sufficiently developed, and not everyone can afford to travel to the republic capital. The number of consulates must be significantly increased, Abdulakh Mikitayev believes, in the interests of present and future Russian citizens living in the neighboring foreign countries.

It is a fundamentally important fact that citizenship and registration are different things, although in order to

become a Russian citizen a person is obliged to confirm where he lives via the internal affairs organs. This procedure has not yet been perfected in practice. Another problem is citizenship for members of officers' families and students who have come to study in higher educational establishments in the Russian Federation. The Commission is prepared to do something for the students, since many of them intend to work in Russia on obtaining their diplomas, and many of tomorrow's specialists consider that their future lies there.

The situation in Estonia and Latvia remains particularly worrying. Why? The answer is simple: There is legislative discrimination there against Russian-speakers, contrary to agreements with Russia and their own constitutions. In these republics thousands of people have been left outside the civil space and are now called "illegal migrants" or "occupiers."

Abdulakh Mikitayev said that in conversation with the Estonian leaders he had tried to explain to them that Russian people as well as the indigenous inhabitants had constructed plants in the republic and had borne the hardships. Driving these people to desperation would mean provoking a social explosion, which many in Russia itself would certainly not regard with indifference... There are few mono-ethnic states in the world. Why should Estonia be one? But for some unknown reason the republic's leaders believe that Russian-speaking inhabitants are a potential threat to the formation of national statehood.

The multitude of worrying facts studied by the Commission on Citizenship Affairs formed the basis of a memorandum that Abdulakh Mikitayev sent to Boris Yeltsin in August: A state program is needed to support ethnic Russians in the neighboring foreign countries. The government has already prepared on the president's behalf a draft program touching on economic, political, and legal questions, and it is being finalized by the ministries.

"We will try to ensure that the neighboring republics observe both human rights and ethnic minorities' rights and interstate agreements," Abdulakh Mikitayev continued. "Let there be more vigorous action from the United Nations and other international organizations. At the moment their methods often smack of the old double standards: peremptorily demanding the withdrawal of Russian forces from other republics, but failing to notice how the authorities are treating Russian people. Actually, UN Commissioner for Ethnic Minorities Van der Stoep, who has made repeated visits to the Baltic countries, has noted that the legislation adopted there does not conform to international standards."

Two further conclusions could be drawn based on the experience of recent years, according to Abdulakh Mikitayev. The first is that a powerful coordinating organ is needed to support ethnic Russians in neighboring foreign countries. It could be the Foreign Ministry, a government section, or, as Andrey Kozyrev suggested, a separate new federal service. The second conclusion is

that sooner or later there is clearly going to be a single citizenship again in the Commonwealth countries, on the model of the European states. But at the moment the protection of the rights of Russians in neighboring foreign countries can only be fully ensured if these people create autonomous entities where they live in numbers. "Aside from anything else, this is the only way to preserve Russian ethnic culture outside Russia. Anything else is a half-measure," Abdulakh Mikitayev said, bringing the conversation with your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent to an end.

Yeltsin Edict on Financial-Budget Administration
PM0903095194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 4

[Edict No. 392 of the Russian Federation President, dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 28 February 1994 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin: "On the Financial-Budget Administration of the Russian Federation President," with appended Statute "On the Financial-Budget Administration of the Russian Federation President"]

[Text] With a view to providing information-analytical backup for the Russian Federation president in the sphere of financial-budget problems, I resolve:

1. To form within the Russian Federation President's Administration a Financial-Budget Administration of the Russian Federation President with a numerical strength of 30 people.
 2. To ratify the appended Statute on the Financial-Budget Administration of the Russian Federation President.
 3. To appoint Igor Dmitriyevich Moskovskiy chief of the Financial-Budget Administration of the Russian Federation President.
 4. The chief of the Russian Federation President's Administration is to ratify the structure and numerical strength of the aforesaid Administration.
- [Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 28 February 1994, No. 392

Statute on the Financial-Budget Administration of the Russian Federation President

I. General Provisions

1. The Financial-Budget Administration of the Russian Federation President (hereinafter the Administration) is a structural subdepartment of the Russian Federation President's Administration, created to provide information-analytical backup for the activity of the Russian Federation president in the sphere of statewide finances, the budget, taxation policy, insurance, price formation, credit relations, and the circulation of money, as well as to prepare practical recommendations on conceptual and strategic questions of financial-budget, taxation, credit-monetary, and currency problems.

2. The legal base for the activity of the Administration is provided by the Russian Federation Constitution and the Russian Federation laws, edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president, as well as the present Statute.

3. In implementing the tasks assigned to it, the Administration cooperates with the apparatuses of the Federal Assembly chambers, the Comptroller's Office, the Russian Federation Government apparatus, and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

II. Basic Tasks and Functions of the Administration

3. The basic tasks and functions of the Administration are:

to gather and process specialized information on financial and credit problems for the purpose of analyzing it and making forecasts of the possible development of events connected with the adoption of particular decisions by the Russian Federation president;

to formulate a balanced approach to questions of determining priorities in the expenditure of state financial resources, as well as the potential of the federal budget and federal nonbudgetary funds for attracting monetary assets in the volumes necessary for the uninterrupted funding of the main areas of the state's domestic and foreign policy determined by the Russian Federation president;

to prepare proposals for shaping the main areas of financial and credit regulation of the country's economy under conditions of its being reformed;

to prepare proposals for draft laws of the Russian Federation, edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president, and decisions of the Russian Federation Government concerning questions of statewide finances, the federal budget, federal nonbudgetary funds, federal taxes and imposts, price formation, insurance, credit policy, and circulation of money;

to examine and prepare proposals on Russian Federation draft laws submitted to the Russian Federation president for signing on questions regulating the country's financial and credit system and, in necessary instances, on exercising the right of delaying veto;

to analyze and systematize information on the current status and development trends of the budget and tax system, credit and monetary relations, and the financial and currency complex, to assess its authenticity and completeness, and to submit to the Russian Federation president reports and analytical and information memorandums on the aforesaid questions.

III. Backup for the Administration's Activity

4. In order to exercise the functions assigned to it, the Administration has the right:

to request and obtain, in accordance with established procedure, the information necessary for its activity from federal organs of the executive;

to recruit scientific establishments and individual scientists and specialists to carry out analytical research into the Administration's subject matter, including on a contract basis, within the limits of the established ruble and currency appropriations;

to use the information data banks which exist in the Russian Federation President's Administration and the Russian Federation Government's Apparatus, as well as, according to established procedure, the data banks of federal organs of the executive and organs of the executive of the components of the Russian Federation.

IV. The Administration's Leadership

5. The Administration is headed by a chief appointed to the post and released from the post by the Russian Federation president.

6. The chief of the Administration has deputies for areas of activity who are appointed to the post and released from the post by the leader of the Russian Federation President's Administration.

7. The chief of the Administration and his deputies ensure the fulfillment of the tasks and functions assigned to the Administration.

8. The chief of the Administration:

submits proposals on the structure and numerical strength of the Administration to the leader of the Russian Federation President's Administration for approval;

determines the functions of the Administration's structural subdepartments and approves statutes on these subdepartments;

recommends for appointment the chief's deputies and other employees of the Administration;

approves the internal regulations in accordance with the internal regulations of the Russian Federation President's Administration;

submits plans for conducting analytical research and recruiting scientific organizations and individual scientists and specialists to carry it out to the leader of the Russian Federation President's Administration for approval;

has the right to sign official documentation within the limits of the Administration's competence;

submits proposals for sending the Administration's employees on trips, including to foreign countries, and for inviting foreign specialists to the Administration;

makes a representation to establish, alter, or abolish supplements to the salaries of the Administration's employees and submits proposals for bonuses to be issued to them;

is able, within the limits of his powers, to issue appropriate directives on organizational questions of the Administration's activity.

Prosecutor Completes Corruption Materials Study

LD0803172094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The Moscow Prosecutor's Office has finished the study of materials it received late in August and early in September 1993 from the Russian Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission for Combatting Crime and Corruption (ICCCC), a Prosecutor's Office source told Interfax.

Prosecutor's Office investigator Mikhail Slinko said the investigation work done by the ICCCC last year lay outside the commission's authority.

The prosecution started on September 3, 1993, against officials from the Agrokhim Association (today called the Russian Agrochemical Company) suspected of unauthorized transfer of funds abroad, was quashed on February 22. But eight of the 19 volumes of Agrokhim case documents which concern the operations of the Vozrozhdeniye financial and trading company distributing baby food bought in Israel have been sent over to the Prosecutor General's Office, the Moscow Prosecutor's Office being unable to trace the whereabouts of a shipment of baby food worth \$1.5 Mn.

On January 17, the Moscow Prosecutor's office terminated the prosecution against former vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy, whom the ICCCC suspected of illegal dealings with the Trade Links Ltd. company. In this connection, the office the same day started a libel case against "an unidentified person," in which Acting Prosecutor General Aleksey Ilyushenko is a witness.

Media Issues

Yeltsin Reaffirms Television Should Be State-Owned

LD0903135294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin reaffirmed today that Ostankino and the Russian channel television [RTV] should be state-owned. He said this to journalists at the end of his meeting today with the heads of both television companies, which he described as difficult but interesting.

The president had a brief meeting with journalists following the ceremony of laying wreaths at Yuriy Gagarin's grave. Replying to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question, Yeltsin reaffirmed his position set out in the president's annual message to the Federal Assembly

to the effect that the first and second programs should be state-owned. Otherwise, Yeltsin believes, we may lose it, it may be broken up by various parties and currents.

The Russian president said that he had today received from Aleksandr Yakovlev a milder draft of the edict and an aide-memoire on this question. Oleg Poptsov also presented him with an aide-memoire. In Yeltsin's opinion, the head of Russian Television is of the opinion that the Russian channel should be state-owned. Yeltsin noted that it was not just a question of the problems of television, but of the development of political processes in the country.

Interference With TV Programming Criticized

PM0903093594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 1

[Anri Vartanov report: "Harking Back to the Week on Television: Walking a Knife Edge"]

[Text] Let me tell you that our television presenters are very fond, to put it more politely as it were, of "plagiarizing" their foreign colleagues' achievements. The most popular television game shows, starting with the well-known "Field of Miracles," are precise copies of their U.S. or European originals. The serials "Trifles of Life" or "Goryachev and the Others" are pale imitations of their "soap operas."

Last Saturday the prominent Ostankino Television Company's main news program joined the ranks of the "copycats." Now "Novosti-Plus" will appear once a week instead of "Novosti." Just like in Paris on their Channel Five. The presenter of the first broadcast did not explain the advantages of this innovation very intelligibly. It seems that common-or-garden news will be supplemented by analysis and summaries.

A few hours before the program aired there was another airing—this time for the amnestied inmates of Lefortovo. The program had a splendid opportunity to demonstrate its new principles. But nothing of the sort: Ostankino's journalists did not dare analyze the incident straightaway. They were afraid.

You may retort: I thought the times had gone when television operated on instructions from on high. Now if it is dependent on anyone it is only on our tastes and requirements as viewers. But no. On the Wednesday that the Duma voted in favor of the amnesty—it was Fatherland Defenders' Day—the Russian Television [RTV] schedule included P. Todorovskiy's excellent film "Encore, Encore Again." At the scheduled time, when millions of viewers were settling down in front of their television sets, a toothy presenter appeared on the screen instead of the well-known movie and made a short speech. From which it emerged that RTV had received a host of telephone calls protesting the showing of the movie.

The next day some newspapers revealed the secret identity of the anonymous defenders of public morality and Soviet officers' dignity who had telephoned RTV. They were the defense minister and the chairman of the War Veterans' Committee. I vividly remembered a similar thing happening three years ago involving former [Defense] Minister D. Yazov. When he was told that producer Peter Stein intended to stage the "Oresteia" by the ancient Greek dramatist Aeschylus in the Soviet Army Theater, he said that he would not allow a German to stage a Greek there. This rapidly flew around the capital's intelligentsia and the marshal lost all their respect even before the August putsch.

However, there was at least some logic to that decision: The Army Theater is subsidized by the Defense Ministry. But what about in this case? The government allocates money for television, only half of what is required, moreover. So there was no reason but overbearing arrogance for the telephone calls to the television station. And the leaders of RTV who postponed the movie until another day demonstrated the basic principle of playing it safe.

The events of the last week on television enable us to view the problem of television's destatization from a new angle. A few days ago there were rumors going round yet again that an edict on the flotation of "Ostankino" is supposedly on the president's desk awaiting signature. During the "Without Touching Up" program on Monday during which journalists met with V. Shumeyko, he was asked—as recent minister of the press and someone who advocated the flotation of television before other leaders—to speak about this. His answer was extremely indicative.

The speaker of the upper chamber of parliament thinks that one of the two main television channels must remain a state channel. But the other must be proclaimed a national channel and a prominent industrial and financial association like AvtoVAZ or LogoVAZ must be allowed to take part in its flotation. I noted that he named these firms with their close links with the government.

The man behind the plan indirectly acknowledged this saying that "you have to go to the limit in this, you have to be able to walk a knife edge." And although that idea was not developed, I saw it as a desire on the part of the authorities to keep control over the two major television channels. In order to ensure that on Chemical Worker's Day or Teacher's Day the relevant minister can call the head of the television channel on the "hot line" and demand that a program he finds unsuitable be taken off.

And the latter will take it off, he will have no other option, my dear....

Rail Ban Threatens Newspaper Distribution

PM0803155594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
6 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pashkov followed by editorial commentary: "The Ministry of Railways Has Declared War on Newspaper Readers. This Is the Purport of a Telegram Received in Sverdlovsk Oblast"]

[Text] Yekaterinburg—"In connection with numerous instances which have come to light concerning the conveyance of commercial freight in mail cars in most flagrant violation of the transport regulations, particularly when a highly flammable liquid is loaded into cars and the actual weight of the freight is understated—which poses a threat to the life and health of passengers and train crews—the Ministry of Railways orders that as of 15 March this year, it is forbidden to couple all mail cars to fast trains and passenger trains, except for local ones."

If you consider that local trains are few and irregular today (once again on the initiative of the Ministry of Railways), it follows from this that thousands of subscribers to IZVESTIYA and other publications printed in Yekaterinburg will receive the newspaper two or three days later in Perm or Tyumen. But even in Sverdlovsk Oblast itself, which covers an area of thousands of kilometers, any newspaper will now arrive much later, for previously the whole system of newspaper delivery was geared not to the convenience of railroad workers but to the speed of delivery of the printed word. It is clear that nobody wants a "stale" newspaper....

In the opinion of specialists, the reference to concern for the health of passengers is clearly of a demagogic nature. This, incidentally, can be seen from the telegram itself. Everything here is simpler—if a really commercial car is coupled instead of a mail car which is used as a commercial car, then the railroad will make a corresponding profit. It is clear that if corruption exists in society, for example, then it is necessary to combat corruption and not all of society.

From the Editors

Together with the report from own correspondent Aleksandr Pashkov we also received from Yekaterinburg a copy of the Railways Ministry telegram signed by Deputy Minister Salatov. It turns out that the ban on coupling mail cars to fast trains and passenger trains extends not only to Sverdlovsk Oblast but also to the entire area of the former USSR, including the Baltic countries!

In order to understand what kind of a blow this is to readers of daily newspapers, let us report that IZVESTIYA, for example, is printed in 27 CIS cities, to which newspaper pages are sent by phototelegraph, are duplicated in regional printing plants, and are then sent on to other cities and villages—frequently precisely by rail transport. If a newspaper is held up for two-five days

on its way to the subscribers, this renders the journalists' work pointless. Reporters sometimes risk their lives to be the first to report events; every day, on the eve of signing an issue to press, the production group calculates the production schedule minute by minute—all so that the finished product, in accordance with the will of the railroad chiefs, can be turned into unwanted bundles of waste paper!

Alas, this is not the first time in recent years that newspapers, particularly daily ones, have fallen victim to the petty tyranny of officials. The press is not even mentioned in Mr. Salatov's order. But must the press and its millions of readers pay for the fact that mail car guards convey "freight which does not correspond to the carriage documents, including flammable and dangerously explosive freight"? Why are newspapers, which already pay the railroads punctually for delivering their goods, obliged to pay for the Railways Ministry's internal departmental innovations?

If such a thing had happened some 10 years ago, the very next day the minister of railways would have received a severe reprimand in the CPSU Central Committee Agitation and Propaganda Department. What?—the "voice of the party" might not be heard by the people! Times are different now, and the press "merely" helps to realize citizens' constitutional right to timely and objective information. But this function of the press seems an empty abstraction to the officials of various ranks who are accustomed just to severe reprimands and administrative rebukes. There is no serious counterweight to departmental tyranny in the government either, which is concerned with more "important" matters than the timely delivery of newspapers.

There must, however, also be the matter of elementary respect for the millions of our fellow citizens who certainly do not live in capitals. What wrong have they done Mr. Salatov?

Is there a body in our country which is capable of repealing the decision of the deputy minister of railways? If there is, when will this happen?

Military Issues

Six Soldiers Killed in Kuril Islands Shootout

LD0903114994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1118
GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaysky]

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Brutal bullying or "conscript-baiting" became the cause of the South Kuril islands as a result of which six servicemen were killed and several wounded, a source in Russia's law enforcement agencies told ITAR-TASS referring to the data of a preliminary questioning of the attackers.

The same source gave details of the March 8 tragedy when Beltsov and Agdashev, young servicemen, entered

the dormitory of the first border picket of the Pacific Border District (Tanfilyev island, South Kurils) at seven in the morning on Tuesday and opened fire with automatic weapons on fellow-servicemen—the old rankers. According to a preliminary lead during the investigation, they wanted to avenge an earlier insult resultant of brutal bullying.

The border picket personnel for several hours had been unable to pacify "mutinous" soldiers who, upon taking an advantageous position, beat off by automatic fire all attempts to seize them. Then the border picket commander called in a Mi-8 helicopter from Kunashir island for help but Beltsov and Agdashev managed to shoot down the helicopter which caught fire in midair and fell onto the island. According to preliminary data, the crew were not hurt while the helicopter burned up.

Only at 16.00 on Tuesday, a seizure group managed to neutralise and apprehend the culprits of the tragedy. Six servicemen were killed and several wounded in the fierce daylong gunbattle on Tanfilyev island. Beltsov and Agdashev were seized alive.

The same source dismissed rumours that Beltsov and Agdashev intended to flee to Japan. He said Colonel-General Andrey Nikolayev, commander of the Russian Federation border forces, the commander of the Pacific Border District and the military prosecutor of the district had been unable to get to the Tanfilyev island for the second day due to the typhoon-caused heavy storm.

Criminal proceedings have been instituted on the strength of the incident facts, and an investigation is under way.

Deputy Radionov on Military Duma Deputies' Status

OW0903081494 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0156 GMT 20 Feb 94

[Interview with Colonel General Yu. N. Rodionov, deputy of the State Duma, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Aty-Baty" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Rodionov] All members of the committee understand the aims and tasks of the committee. Insofar as the army is above politics and has no factions or party groupings within it, the committee likewise must reflect the armed forces since in practice it works for the needs of the armed forces by drawing up legislation necessary to them. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Do you think there is a need to criticize the armed forces, and how should it be done? Do people have the right to participate in its reform? Should reform be through public control, the press, or the State Duma?

[Rodionov] Everyone can be criticized, the armed forces included, as long as the criticism is based on fact and not on malignant attitudes or personal resentment. The life

and activities of the armed forces should be widely publicized in the press, radio, and television—that is, in all mass media.

[Correspondent] Don't you presently receive sufficient publicity?

[Rodionov] No, it is insufficient. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is the relationship with the Defense Ministry of those servicemen currently serving as deputies? Has their status been determined yet? Will they be discharged from the armed forces? What relationship do they have with the Defense Ministry?

[Rodionov] To reply to the first part of your question, I will say all of us servicemen elected as deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly are, how can I put it, the flesh and blood of our armed forces. For instance, I am in my 39th year of service with the armed forces, so how can I speak of having some kind of relationship with the Defense Ministry. I am part of the armed forces and do not think of myself in any other terms. Those servicemen who are State Duma deputies think of themselves in exactly the same way.

Unfortunately, our present legal status has not been defined. Article 44 of the Law on Military Responsibility and Military Service provides that a soldier's service is suspended for the period of his full-time work in an elected body. This article was abolished by the presidential edict of 24 December 1993, creating a legal vacuum. So now, if a serviceman is to be discharged, then which article should apply? The article on staff reductions cannot apply, since our jobs have not been reduced. The article on bad conduct cannot be applied either, since we have not done anything illegal, and so on. There is no article in accordance with which we could discharge servicemen-deputies. The one remaining article which can be applied is the one which permits us to attach these people to a government body—which the State Duma is—and leave them on active service. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Are you satisfied with the way the situation is currently shaping up in the State Duma as regards military issues? Does something need to be done or strengthened? Do we need to change something before it's too late, or to say something to the deputies and officers?

[Rodionov] The Duma is the reflection of the situation in our country and armed forces. Now is a complicated period for the country, as well as for the armed forces and the State Duma. The country and the armed forces will survive this period. There must be progress. I believe our country will come out of the situation in which it finds itself.

[Correspondent] Where will this progress come from, and what is the basis for it?

[Rodionov] It is the lawmaking work of the Duma. There must be precise legislation, and precise demands must be

made on the executive power to implement the legislation adopted by the Duma. Until we start implementing the existing legislation, we will not make any sense from any of the vital activities happening in our country.

Independent deputies—those elected from single-mandate districts—will form the basis of the center in the Duma. As a matter of fact, the idea of consolidating all forces to implement the tasks facing the Duma, and on which practically all independent deputies are working, has been enunciated within the new regional policy party grouping. Namely, it is the independent deputies who are not members of any party who must undertake and head this work of consolidation, because the main task facing the Duma is not the clarification of relationships between parties, but the difficult and exacting work of drafting laws.

Defense Ministry Cuts Back on Publications

OW0803193094 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0815 GMT 4 Mar 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] According to the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper, the Russian Defense Ministry soon intends to carry out a reduction in the military mass media—a reform of military newspapers and magazines. This is brought about by the critical state of their finances. In all likelihood, publication of large-circulation newspapers on vessels, flotillas, and bases will cease. Only the fleet and district newspapers, such as the Pacific Fleet's newspaper BOYEVAYA VAKHTA [COMBAT WATCH], will remain.

Private Sector Starts New Military Publication

OW0803195794 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0815 GMT 4 Mar 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Even if the Defense Ministry does not have any money, other latter-day structures have. The first issue of VOYENNNY PARAD [MILITARY PARADE], the new illustrated analytical news magazine, saw the light of day in Moscow. The magazine will be published once every two months and will analyze the problems of Russian military and strategic policies. Among its publishers are the Association of Investors in the Conversion of the Defense Complex of the Russian Federation and the U.S. Zigzag Venture Group company.

Land Forces Commander Views Problems

LD0703162694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 7 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow March 7 TASS—Land troops will remain the basis of the Russian armed forces well into the future, according to Russian land forces commander Colonel-General Vladimir Semenov. In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, Semenov said that land forces should be slightly trimmed up to make them more mobile and manoeuvrable, better governable and able to perform any task. He said that presently Russian land troops are engaged in various operations in Tajikistan, South Ossetia, the Dniester region of Moldova and other trouble spots in the former Soviet Union. He stressed that they are also fit enough to replace Russian paratroopers in Bosnia.

Speaking about the problems facing his troops, Semenov said that the major of them is the lack of finances. It takes 10 to 15 years to develop new types of weapons, but there are no means to finance new programmes, most of which remain on paper. He regretted that the Manevr management and control system which was developed almost 20 years ago has become obsolete but there is nothing new to replace it with.

Semenov said that the principle of left-over staffing of land troops which make up almost a half of the Russian army is especially alarming. The system of service on a contract basis has proven ineffective. "Until the country gets a strong economy, one can hardly hope that skilled volunteers would join the army," he said.

Ministry Onslaught on Army Benefits Hit

PM0803161394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Mar 94 p 1

[Vladimir Yermolin article: "Benefits Guaranteed to Servicemen by Law are Not a Subject for Speculation"]

[Text] "The Russian Government has no intention of abolishing servicemen's benefits," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin felt compelled to state recently. As far as I recall this is not the first time in the past 18 months that someone at the very highest level has assured the Army: Attempts to economize at the expense of servicemen's social protection will be prevented.

On this occasion it was the Finance Ministry which had proposed scrapping free medical services for reservists and retired servicemen, the compulsory insurance of officers' property, interest-free loans for military college graduates to help them settle in and for officers to build houses and cottages, and the one-off grant equivalent to 20 times the [monthly] salary for those discharged into the reserve (a figure of five times the salary was proposed instead). Prior to this, in the days of Boris Fedorov, the finance department was hatching a plan to tax servicemen. A month or two earlier, the Finance Ministry, in league with the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Communications, tried to amend the list of benefits contained in the Russian Federation Law "On the status of servicemen." In other words, instead of making the benefit mechanism really effective (and at

the moment it is just muddling along) the men from the ministries decided to abolish it entirely.

No matter what you say, some civilian departments still suffer from an irresistible urge to "raid" the military for funds. That urge is so irresistible that you get the definite impression that the Finance Ministry's specialists are pinning all their hopes of curbing inflation on the Armed Forces alone. Clearly the minds of the financiers refuse to work in any other direction. Meanwhile the talk about the taxation of superprofits remains to this day mere talk. Of course, the functionaries have no intention of economizing at their own expense: The state apparatus is burgeoning, as the president has already said a number of times.

Meanwhile, as usual, the press and television are already hinting to the slow-witted where they might find the source of all our woes: It is planned to spend ten times more on defense than on medicine and education, they say.... In journalists' commentaries virtually all the items of budget spending were slightly overshadowed by the sum of spending on defense. However, if you read the budget carefully it is not difficult to see that in comparison with 1993 it has not increased at all. But the tasks with which life is constantly confronting the Russian Army cost the Defense Ministry a pretty penny. Perhaps the subject of the debate itself—benefits—will become immeasurably small because there will be nothing with which to finance the Armed Forces' combat readiness.

No one is disputing that costs in the Army can and must be cut. For example, they can be cut by introducing new, more efficient but less energy-intensive systems of armaments and hardware. Doubtless the scientists could make a contribution here without this having an adverse effect on the Army's combat readiness. By not stinting on the automation and computerization of the Armed Forces today we would surely achieve a substantial saving tomorrow. The investment of the necessary resources in scientific and technical research for the needs of defense would, in the very near future, undoubtedly result in the reduction of the numerical strength of the Army and positive structural changes. Paradoxical as it may seem, economizing is a costly exercise. And that is particularly true when applied to the defense of the state.

For some reason it is constantly suggested that we should cut costs in the Army at the expense of the serviceman's family budget. Let us leave aside the immorality of the very approach of giving benefits with one hand, taking them away with the other. Such "reformist" methods will hardly enhance within the Army the prestige of contract relations with the state. It is a good thing, of course, that this is understood by the top officials in the government but it is strange that it is not understood by statesmen of ministerial rank.

Yes, military men do not sow or reap and it is not immediately obvious where the revenue section in the

defense budget actually is. Nevertheless, there is a revenue section if you recall the Russian soldiers' peace-making missions in Tajikistan, Georgia, the North Caucasus, the Dniester region, and finally in the former Yugoslavia. Such is the reality: In our troubled world the state's ability to protect itself and its interests still counts for a lot. The Army is ensuring peace in Russia today without firing a shot or engaging in a cheap display of muscle flexing and is doing all it can to establish peace outside its borders. Surely even the most convinced pro-marketeer must recognize that stability in the country, without which the normal course of the reforms is inconceivable, has been ensured to no small extent by the very existence of combat-capable Armed Forces which enjoy prestige in the world. Admittedly one feels embarrassed about having to state such banal truths.

I do not believe that the financiers were pursuing any political interests when they put their anti-army initiative to the government. But even on their own the rumors unquestionably produce a political effect. It is no coincidence that Viktor Chernomyrdin let slip a phrase about forces trying to bring the Army into conflict with the president and the government.

The very fact that such proposals have appeared from the Finance Ministry is alarming. They did not succeed today but what about tomorrow? Surely people are right when they talk about the need for the adoption of a law on criminal liability for non-implementation of the articles of the defense budget and for any delays in financial operations affecting the combat readiness of the troops. The Army's life and well-being must be defined by the Law and by the Law alone, least of all by the will of individual officials even those of the very highest rank. As for the "package of military laws," I should like to hope that if ministers or parliamentarians recall them again it will only be to improve them and make them more efficient and effective and able to operate in full and without exception. In that respect there is much work to be done.

At the moment, however, when the military man joins his detail, takes up combat positions, or goes on alert duty at sea he must be confident that when he returns he will not be worse off than when he started. Just as the young man contemplating the future from the threshold of military college today must know exactly how and in what form the state will evaluate his decades of impeccable service.

When speaking about the situation to which the Finance Ministry has brought us today, people in the Army say: "They're just sending smoke up the chimney, they're making themselves busy by pulling apart dumplings!" There is nothing wrong with the soldiers' sense of humor; the important thing is that there should be nothing wrong with the sense of responsibility of the departmental arbiters of people's fate.

S-300 PMO-1 SAM Missile System Profiled

PM0803095794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1439 GMT 25 Feb 94

[From the "Military Courier" program: Video report by Igor Krondo]

[Text] [Krondo over video of air attack] The experience of local wars and armed conflicts during the second half of the 20th century, including the wars in Korea and Vietnam, the Arab-Israeli wars, and operation Desert Storm indicates that the success of combat operations is determined largely by reliable air defenses. This accounts for the great attention which has been paid to the development of modern multiple-target SAM missile systems. Right now it is possible to claim with confidence that the Russian military-industrial complex is a world leader in this sphere.

Take for instance this multichannel SAM missile system, the S-300 PMO-1, which is in the Russian Army's arsenal. It is designed to destroy modern combat aircraft and cruise and ballistic missiles. Essentially, this system ensures 100 percent destruction of aerodynamic targets within a range of 150 km, and of ballistic missiles and their warheads within a range of 40 km. Minimum target altitude is 10 meters, and maximum altitude is the service ceiling of modern combat aircraft. What is more, the speed of the target is of no consequence. It is possible to hit six targets simultaneously, targeting them with up to 12 missiles. The S-300 PMO-1 SAM missile system is highly mobile. Either self-propelled or transported by rail or military transport aircraft, it can be moved to any region in a short space of time. And it takes only five minutes to deploy. Its foreign counterpart is the U.S. Patriot system, which received wide publicity following operation Desert Storm.

Regional Affairs**Bashkortostan Deputy Parliament Chairman Assassinated**

LD0903063394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0613 GMT 9 Mar

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Raul Tukhvatulin]

[Text] Ufa 9 March TASS—Razil Sitdikhovi Musin, deputy chairman of Bashkortostan's Parliament, appointed as head of administration of the Dyurtyulinsky district a week ago, was killed on Wednesday morning in an explosion of the bomb planted at the door of his house.

Musin was appointed to the post last week by President Murtaza Rakhimov despite opposition of all local leaders in the district. Bashkortostan's president sacked the previous head of administration to give another office to Razil Musin.

Buryatia Adopts New Constitution

LD0903110994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0848 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan-Ude March 9 TASS—Russia's East Siberian republic of Buryatia is from now on "a sovereign democratic law-governed state within the Russian Federation," according to its new Constitution, which came in force on Wednesday to replace the previous Fundamental Law adopted in 1978.

The republic's Constitution says relations with the federal centre must be built on the basis of agreements between federal authorities and the local government. The republic is to have its own president at the head of the executive power and the popular Hural (parliament) as the main body of representative authority. The first presidential and parliamentary elections will be held in March 1994.

North Ossetians Demand Lifting of Emergency

LD0903142994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1253 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz March 9 TASS—The situation has become sharply aggravated in the North Ossetian regions under state of emergency rule imposed by the Russian president's decree and to be in effect until March 31, 1994.

At about 6:00 on Wednesday, residents of the settlements of Chermen, Kurtat, Dachnoye, Saniba and Verkhny Komgaron, as well as Terek Cossacks, blocked the main road between the villages of Oktyabrskoye and Kartsa in North Ossetia's Prigorodny District, brought traffic to a standstill and staged a rally of protest.

The action was prompted by the recent murder by armed bandits of two civilians from the settlement of Verkhny Komgaron located within the safety zone under control of Russian peacekeeping forces and local law-enforcement bodies, according to Gatsir Dzagoyev, head of the Prigorodny District's local self-government and a North Ossetian deputy. The protesters demanded that North Ossetian authorities, the temporary administration and investigation bodies expose the criminals.

Participants in the rally believe that troops assigned to the temporary administration do not perform their functions properly. They also accused the Russian Interior Ministry's investigation group investigating crimes in the zone under state of emergency rule of somewhat neglecting their official duties.

The Prigorodny District's residents also demanded that the state of emergency be lifted in North Ossetia from March 31 and that the temporary administration be dissolved. To substantiate their demand, the protesters

stressed there were appropriate power structures in the republic capable of taking control over the situation and of settling all differences with Ingushetia.

According to Dzagoyev, who attended the rally together with an official of the temporary administration, villagers of the Prigorodny District would like these issues to be raised at the republican parliament's next session scheduled for late March.

Meanwhile, North Ossetian President Askharbek Galazov met on Wednesday the head of the temporary administration in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, Vladimir Lozovoi. They discussed the situation in the context of the current developments in the zone under state of emergency rule.

Chechnya Spokesman Accuses Shakhray of Hampering Talks

LD0903141994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1146 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Chechnya's Information and Press Department leader accused Russian Nationalities and Regional Policy Minister Sergey Shakhray of blocking negotiations between Moscow and Grozny. In his interview with Interfax Wednesday Movladiy Udugov declared that Shakhray is directly responsible for the destabilization of the situation in the North Caucasus and the unsettledness of Russian-Chechen relations.

"We still hope that such politicians as Sergey Filatov or Viktor Chernomyrdin (leader of presidential administration and Russian premier—INTERFAX) will take the negotiating process under their control. In an adverse situation, if Russian nationalities minister interferes into the negotiations they will inevitably windup in a dead alley," said Udugov.

Udugov expressed the opinion that on the issue of Chechnya's sovereignty (Chechnya insists on its official recognition) the greatest disagreement will arise at the upcoming negotiations in Moscow. In Udugov's opinion, it would be expedient to first discuss those issues which are not so controversial and then to start discussing the issue of Chechnya's independence.

"The Chechen party was always ready for negotiations with Russia at any level and on any issue and we welcome the statement of the head of the presidential administration Sergey Filatov on the necessity to normalize relations with Chechnya," said Udugov.

Maritime Kray Head on Talks With Government

OW0903012094 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 1132 GMT 23 Feb 94

[Video interview with Ey.I. Nazdratenko, head of the Maritime Kray Administration, by correspondent B. Makarychev; place, date not given—recorded; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] [Nazdratenko] This winter we were busy just surviving. At a meeting with the prime minister, when you meet the other heads of administrations, one hears: Vologda, 0 degrees [Celsius] to 2 degrees above zero, or 0 degrees to minus 1 degree. Of course, they do not understand our problems. Naturally, they have their own problems. I think that Moscow, which we all support so unanimously—well, the streets are lit there, the houses are warm, they have money with which to buy fuel and food. It is obvious that this is the capital and should be treated with respect, but after the adoption of the new Constitution we are all equal as members of the Federation. However, we are far from equal financially.

[Makarychev] Your business trip to Moscow had to do with the work of the Federation Council. Nevertheless, I understand that you will again carry a proposal on a package of talks with the government. If it is not a secret, could you tell us about the main points of the package? What would you like to solve in Moscow?

[Nazdratenko] There are two kind of documents. The first kind is one which burns, bets, and screams about a current issue. The second package of documents concerns the strategic development of the Maritime Kray.

[Makarychev] Tell me, do you have any hopes that one day you might go to Moscow without carrying any documents asking for help?

[Nazdratenko] No. No.

[Makarychev] So, you have no such hopes for the near future? We will continue to beg?

[Nazdratenko] Yes. Because what we have here is a vicious circle. They tell us: support the institute of agriculture from your own budget, support all organizations from your own budget, support the handicapped, the pensioners, and the needy out of your own budget. At the same time, our own budget is funded by taxes on working industry, which is broken and on the verge of extinction.

[Makarychev] Are you not afraid that you will be accused, behind your back, of going to Moscow to blackmail the government, that you make us all go down on our knees and do not see any other methods?

[Nazdratenko] Tell me, was not Decree 1001 a promising one? Was it not a good thing which got destroyed later? The presidential representative sent coded messages to the effect that I was blackmailing the country and Moscow. Yet Moscow, by not sending funds to Arsenyev, Bolshoy Kamen and the defense factories, is it not thus blackmailing the residents of Maritime Kray? What is this? Therefore, this is no blackmail. If a person has worked, he must be paid for it. So pay this money to those who have worked. Of course, they can blame me, but I do not consider this to be blackmail. I think that this is the position of the Maritime Kray leadership in defending the interests of the Maritime Kray.

Deputies Want Petersburg TV Chief Investigated

PM0803163394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
5 Mar 94 p 2

[Sergey Krayukhin report: "State Duma Deputies Versus Bella Kurkova"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—The SANKT-PETERBURG-SKIYE VEDOMOSTI newspaper has reported that State Duma Deputies Ye. Krasnitskiy and A. Yegorov have appealed in their own right to the city prosecutor's office, the St. Petersburg and Oblast Internal Affairs Main Administration Administration for Combating Economic Crime, and the State Tax Inspectorate for St. Petersburg to carry out a check on the legality of a number of financial transactions sanctioned by B. Kurkova, leader of the "Petersburg—5 Kanal" state television and radio company.

The deputies, so the report says, presented the law enforcement agencies with documents which are in their view evidence of bribe-taking by officials, in particular B. Kurkova. The deputies also appealed to St. Petersburg Mayor A. Sobchak in an open letter which says inter alia:

"We consider it your moral duty to see to it that an objective investigation is carried out. We hope you will understand that there are grounds—based on public opinion—for fearing that you will apply official pressure in the investigation. We do not doubt your honesty and impartiality or your direct interest in the observance of law in the city."

Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Interviewed

WA0903015494

[Editorial Report] Nizhniy Novgorod Television Network in Russian at 1735 GMT on 17 February carries its regular "Dramatis Personae" program, which features an interview with Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast Governor Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov. Asked by the anchorwoman about the results of British Prime Minister John Major's visit to Nizhniy Novgorod, Nemtsov replies that this was the first such visit in the centuries-old history of Nizhniy Novgorod. No Western leader has visited Nizhniy Novgorod since 1221.

Nemtsov continues that this is the first time that he has seen a person from the West coming not just with promises, but with a concrete program supported by concrete millions of pounds. This program includes implementation of three major projects in Nizhniy Novgorod. The first project concerns investments into enterprises which have gone through the stage of privatization, but found themselves broke. This project is expected to get 4.8 million pounds. The second program concerns specialists who do not have enough skills in market economy, but need them very much. This training program will be funded by about 1 million pounds. The third is a program aimed at establishment of something like an all-Russian automobile alliance in Nizhniy Novgorod.

As for the political significance of the visit, Nemtsov believes that the British prime minister saw for himself that the money spent on technological aid to Russia was not wasted. The program of privatization of truck transportation and the land reform program have been developed with the support of the money provided by the British Government. Both programs are being implemented in Nizhniy Novgorod, and they will become models for all of Russia, in the opinion of the Russian government.

Speaking about an expected visit of the Russian prime minister, Nemtsov says that Nizhniy Novgorod has been waiting for that visit for two years already, that he invites the prime minister every time he sees him, but this time it seems he will come to Nizhniy Novgorod on 10 March. According to the anchorwoman, the mass media has been writing a lot about an alleged opposition between Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin lately. As far as Nemtsov knows, there is no such opposition between them.

Speaking about the recent visit of former Finance Minister Fedorov to Nizhniy Novgorod, Nemtsov says that Fedorov came at his invitation. He is a State Duma deputy and heads the commission for finances and banks. Nemtsov says that the purpose of Fedorov's visit was to get acquainted with the process of formation of local budgets, with the state of economy on the regional level, and to learn more about the work of commercial banks. In addition to that, Fedorov was interested in the notorious problem of the automobile building plant, because it was Fedorov who initiated the inspection at that plant.

There was a presentation of the cellular phone system in Nizhniy Novgorod that day. Speaking about its importance for Nizhniy Novgorod, Nemtsov says that Nizhniy Novgorod is the first provincial Russian city that got the cellular phone system. First, it will provide a possibility to make calls from absolutely anywhere and get connected to any place in the world. Second, it finally broke through the monopoly of one phone service for many years. Third, he hopes the quality of service will be much better, because there is competition now. This is a very expensive service, but the city has paid nothing for it. Investments of a million and a half dollars have been made into the development of the communications system in Nizhniy Novgorod.

Speaking about the lavish attention given to the forthcoming elections of a new mayor of Nizhniy Novgorod, Nemtsov says that it is understandable, because the mayor will head both the legislative and the executive branches of power in the city. The difficulty is that people will have to choose between two very worthy candidates—Bednyakov and Krestyaninov. This is a very rare situation. Nemtsov says that Nizhniy Novgorod residents know both candidates very well, and they will be able to make their choice. He says that he knows both of them personally, and he will vote for Krestyaninov.

The city faces very serious problems because of the developing process of privatization. Nemtsov believes that there should be very rigid control over that process and over those who are involved in that. That control can be exercised by deputies, the independent mass media, the opposition, and the authorities. Nemtsov thinks that Krestyaninov understands the significance of the organs of representative power, and he will have no problems with higher-ranking authorities either. Besides,

obvious problems of the city, such as transportation, crime, roads, cleanliness, etc., which are not as attractive as opening ceremonies of exhibits, are the problems that should nonetheless be dealt with every day. Nemtsov thinks that Krestyaninov could do that efficiently and calmly. Besides, he says that he is a normal man, and he can openly say that Krestyaninov is his friend, he is proud of that, and people may consider it the main reason why he is going to vote for him.

International Affairs

Second Trainload of Nuclear Weapons To Leave Soon

LD0903134094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1146 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] A second train, carrying 60 nuclear warheads of strategic rockets stationed in Ukraine, is expected to leave the Khmelnytskyi railroad station for Russia at 20:20 Moscow time Wednesday. An informed source in the Russian Defense Ministry told Interfax that the warheads would be sent to a factory in the Sverdlovsk Region for dismantling. The first trainload of 60 warheads had left the city of Pervomaisk for Russia on March 4.

A total of nearly 2000 nuclear warheads remain in Ukraine in the hands of the 46th Rocketry Division stationed in Pervomayisk and the 43rd Rocketry Army stationed in Khmelnytskyi.

Meanwhile, officials in the Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry told Interfax that 120 heating elements had been sent by one of the Elektrostal, Moscow Region, factory to the Chernobyl nuclear power station at the expense of the Russian government.

President Kravchuk on Visit to United States

LD0903001994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] As you know, the official visit to the United States of America by Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine's president, took place from 3-7 March. Our special correspondent Anatoliy Tabachenko reports. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] After the documents were signed a joint news conference began, at which both presidents made statements. Leonid Kravchuk said in particular:

[Begin Kravchuk recording] Ladies and gentlemen. We have just put our signatures to a number of extremely important bilateral documents, which create a legal basis for our cooperation in the sphere of the economy, trade, and other spheres. What one may without exaggeration call a historic moment in relations between our states took place before your own eyes a few minutes ago. Today we have in fact turned the page in the still short history of our bilateral relations, which seemed to connect us forever with the complex problem, colossal in scale, of the nuclear weapons inherited by Ukraine from the former [Soviet] Union. Although this problem remains complex now, we have managed to bring it essentially and substantially nearer to a (?successful resolution) by joint efforts.

The new dislocation of forces on the political map of the world has particularly demonstrated the necessity of creating a global system of security, which would work in accordance with new principles. We are aware that the

complex processes of international security and peace are interconnected and failures or a vacuum in some or other part of the world cannot be permitted, especially on the European continent.

For this very reason, I and President Bill Clinton agreed that the political and economic security of Ukraine, which plays an important and stabilizing role in its region, and this is not just our opinion, is of equally exceptional significance both for the people of Ukraine and for all of humanity, and (?for Americans) too. Proceeding from this key idea, we understand that relations between Ukraine and the United States of America should be constructed as relations between friendly states, which should have many more joint interests than differences.

During the talks with President Clinton, we were convinced that the American side understands our problems and expresses concern at the serious economic condition of Ukraine. We saw that the U.S. Administration does not only hail the Ukrainian Government's measures to overcome the economic crisis, but also expresses readiness to render Ukraine the necessary assistance in many directions of an economic orientation, as the President has just said.

Today we signed a package of economic agreements and accords, which I hope will help Ukraine to considerably ease and accelerate the movement to a market, remove the tension in the economy, and (?also) in the daily life of our people. We have been convinced that in America we have a friend, whom we need and at the right time too. Today Ukraine is a friend, as they say, in need, but a friend indeed, as your well-known American saying goes. But I believe that the day will come when we will truly recall these times as the era of the birth and establishment of true friendship between the two peoples and states of Ukraine and the United States of America. I thank you for your attention. [applause]. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] We used to smelt half of the former Soviet Union's cast iron and steel. [We have] great chemistry, Donbass, and nuclear power engineering. All this creates preconditions which require large resources, primarily energy resources, while these energy resources are concentrated outside Ukraine, mainly in Russia. In the last year and a half the prices for these resources has risen a thousand-fold and more. [Words indistinct] it is surprising how our economy could withstand it when energy carrier prices have gone up by a thousand to fifteen hundred times within such a short period. This is an important objective cause of (?our difficulties).

We also have Chernobyl, with over 12 percent of the budget spent on (?eliminating) the Chernobyl aftermath. (?Historically), we (?inherited from) the Soviet Union immense armed forces with over a million people. They have to be reformed and reduced so that these people are provided [word indistinct] socially and supplied with houses and so on and so forth.

We now have another problem relating to the elimination of nuclear weapons. There also is a problem of providing social security for a great many people, to speak nothing of other problems of our economy—the links that were formed with the former Soviet Union. Ukraine's economy was only a segment of that great economy and this segment served as an assembly plant in the Soviet Union or as a provider of part of the collective deliveries that were mainly consummated in (production) in Russia.

All this now needs to be redone and reformed. The structure of industry needs to be changed. This requires much expenditure and will take some time. Our human, natural, technological and scientific resources, however, are extraordinarily great.

We have not yet done everything as far as our legislation is concerned, no. We have not managed to put everything into practice to create preconditions for, shall we say, the economy and the free movement of the workforce, capital and money to develop jointly. The banking, financial and credit system has not yet been worked out entirely. All this is now being elaborated, detailed and reformed.

Clearly, this will be done quicker with the aid of experienced people who are in this hall today and in the United States of America in general, who will come to Ukraine and help implement it and assist us by sharing their experience. We are totally aware that nobody will pull Ukraine out of the economic crisis except for its own self and its people. We, however, also know that how quickly this can be done depends on whether Ukraine has real financial, economic and investment aid or is left face to face with its problems and grave consequences of the past.

Politically, I am convinced Ukraine can and will play a stabilizing part in Europe. It can become a state where democracy, liberty, reforms, markets and transformations will lead the way. All this is a must in our future. I am also convinced Ukraine's future lies in its ties with European and world financial and economic structures.

We also realize that the proportion of these ties today is not determined in the Ukrainian economy. It is there, however, where the future lies, because the development of society, technological changes, scientific and technological transformations are only possible on the basis of close ties with advanced technologies, market and financial structures of Europe, the world, the United States of America and other countries that have much experience and great possibilities in this respect.

Today, however, we also orient our economy toward the CIS market because we know this market is a real one for the economies of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and others. In other words, all this has to happen gradually, by way of gathering experience, accumulating capital and restructuring, shall we say, industrial enterprises on a large scale through the conversion of our military industrial complex. So I appeal to you to understand the situation in

Ukraine and realize its role, its possibilities, and its potential. Politically, our visit to the United States of America is exactly about expressly and clearly determining the political attitude, including by the United States of America, to Ukraine as a European state with a great future. This great future much depends on how and what emphasis is placed politically and economically by the great world state of the United States of America.

I thank the people present here for their attention and can answer your questions. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] I (?want) to say that when meeting at the Pentagon in particular, and other places too, we did not just discuss the volume of assistance, but the mechanisms for making use of it too. For example, we agreed with the U.S. minister of defense [as heard] that a considerable part of the assistance will go toward housing for and the social protection of officers who will be made redundant. Specific figures and time periods have even been determined—that is, the talk is now about the value of the assistance and ways of making use of it, and so it was with every route for this assistance. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Cites U.S. Policy Change

WS0803200794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program
Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Commenting on the results of the Ukrainian president's visit to Washington, Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko stated that the U.S. Administration has reinterpreted its policy with regard to Ukraine. The results of the talks, according to the minister, give every reason to believe that the United States assigns an important part in its policy for our state.

Senior Official Assesses CIS Moscow Talks

WS0903112694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program
Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Proposals from a Ukrainian delegation make the idea of forming financial-industrial groups and joint-stock enterprises within the CIS quite achievable—This is how Volodymyr Melnyk, senior official at the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, assessed the preliminary agreements reached among the Commonwealth states at their talks in Moscow. He also pointed out that Kiev's official support of the idea does not contradict Ukraine's admission as merely an associate member of the CIS economic union. This standpoint has been officially proclaimed earlier by the Government of Ukraine.

Iran Envoy Denies Oil Traded for Weaponry

PM0803164994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
5 Mar 94 p 3

[Konstantin Marchenko report under "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Did Kiev Sell Arms to Tehran?"]

[Text] Kiev—At a news conference in Kiev organized by the Iranian Embassy in Ukraine to mark the 15th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Iran's first deputy ambassador to Ukraine, Agadzhan (name as transliterated), drew the press's attention to an item in THE WASHINGTON POST. It reported that an exchange of Iranian oil for Ukrainian artillery mounts took place in 1992. According to the Iranian diplomat, his state exchanged oil neither for artillery mounts nor even for tank spares. Earlier, Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetsky had stated that, while he is an advocate of the arms trade, nevertheless Ukraine should not for the moment sell off its arsenals; it is necessary first to create a closed production cycle.

National Affairs

Crimea's Meshkov Appeals for Law, Order

94K0834A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 94 p 1

["Appeal of the president of the Republic of Crimea"]

[Text] Esteemed fellow citizens!

The situation in the republic continues to deteriorate and has approached a state of crisis. The growth of crime, which is threatening the formation and development of our young republic, is particularly disturbing. The negative impact of the shadow economy is increasing, discipline and order are declining, organized crime is growing everywhere, and firearms are being used for criminal purposes increasingly often. An emergency situation, which demands the adoption of radical measures, has taken shape in Crimea.

All this is keeping the republic on edge, evoking people's alarm and disquiet, creating an atmosphere of unmanageability, and engendering irresponsibility and an impermissibly airy, nihilistic attitude toward the laws and state discipline.

Questions of ensuring elementary order based on conscious discipline are taking precedence today in order that everyone might have confidence in the present and the future, that there might be sufficiency, and that people might cease to fear for themselves and their nearest and dearest. Everyone who performs his duty conscientiously should be sure that he is under the protection of the law and the president.

Today I appeal to you, my electorate. Your assistance in desisting from ill-considered political steps and unreasoned actions, which could destabilize the situation even more. Your assistance in helping the law enforcement authorities and in creating volunteer formations to safeguard public order and put a stop to law-breaking, primarily at the place of residence and employment.

The current dangerous crime situation cannot be altered without there having been a fundamental change in the attitude of the outfits of enterprises, the population of

cities, settlements, and villages, and of the entire community toward this matter, which is of vital importance to all. A system of measures of moral and material encouragement of the community for participation in law enforcement activity and the utmost assistance to it on the part of the law enforcement authorities, enterprises, and organizations is being created to this end.

It is essential that all citizens with unregistered weapons immediately turn them in to the internal affairs authorities and that, if necessary, a decision be made on the question of whether to register them or not. Measures in accordance with the Criminal Code of Ukraine will be applied in respect to persons who possess weapons illegally and who continue to store them.

I appeal to the law enforcement authorities, primarily militia officers, who are at the forward edge of the fight against crime. The majority of you are conscientiously performing your professional duty to the people, worthily mounting guard of the interests of the state, and protecting the citizens' rights and liberties.

At the same time, the activity of many internal affairs authorities does not correspond to the demands made of it. The struggle against embezzlement, profiteering, hooliganism, and the increased manifestations of organized crime is failing to produce the due results. Hundreds of criminals, among whom there are many who have committed serious crimes, remain at liberty, which is a stern reproach to the professional honor of the militia officers.

Unfortunately, complacency and an uncritical attitude toward the results of their activity are being displayed by some of them, and rudeness, indifference, and extortion are being tolerated. We need to emphatically rid ourselves of such officers and to preserve the purity of the militia ranks.

While displaying attention to and concern for law-abiding citizens, militia officers must be implacable toward transgressors. Their actions in respect to law-breakers must be precise, competent, and legitimate.

Let the criminals know that their every unlawful action will be emphatically cut short and that, should they resist, authorized weapons, the right to use which has been broadened for militia officers as of late, will be used against them.

The president and government of Crimea will, in turn, do everything necessary to provide the city and district internal affairs authorities as quickly as possible with motor transport and other facilities necessary in the work of crime prevention and detection.

I appeal to the employees of the news media and the corps of journalists that they develop the all-around and truthful coverage of problems of the fight against crime, actively uncover the causes of negative manifestations, and contribute to the molding in the public of a respect for the law, the enhanced authority of the employees of the militia, the court, the public procurator's office, and

other law enforcement authorities, and propagandize the positive experience of the public formations in the prevention of law-breaking.

The government and law enforcement authorities of Crimea and the population of the republic have sufficient forces for cutting short by decisive and firm actions the orgy of crime and ensuring legality and firm law and order.

Yuriy Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea

No. 76, 2 March 1994, Simferopol.

Elections Commissioner Surveys Field of Candidates

WS0703211994 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 4 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Ulyan Ninel: "Communists Are in the Lead"]

[Text] Ivan Yemets, head of the Central Electoral Commission for the elections of people's deputies of Ukraine, has told a news conference that as of 2 March, there were 5,833 candidates for deputy seats registered; this number, due to natural causes, can only decrease. On average, it amounts to almost 13 candidates per constituency, but there is also one constituency in Kiev with 31 candidates, and 3 constituencies in Ukraine with two candidates in each.

Among the candidates, 62.3 percent is put forward by the electorate; 26.7 percent—by working collectives; and 11 percent—by political parties. As it should be expected, those seeking revenge "have got the fidgets": Among the political parties, the largest number of candidates was put forward by the Communist Party—6.7 percent. It is followed by the Popular Rukh—4.1 percent; the Socialist Party—3.11 percent; the Ukrainian Republican Party—2.42 percent; the Liberal Party—1.43 percent; and the Democratic Party of Ukraine—1.28 percent. According to Ivan Yemets, there are more "disguised" party candidates, but not everyone has decided to be put forward by the parties due to their anemia and lack of influence.

Among the candidates for deputy seats, representatives of commercial and entrepreneur structures total 13.2 percent; workers of state enterprises—10.3 percent; representatives of state administration—5.4 percent; heads and workers of the councils at all levels—6.22 percent; managers of state enterprises—4.6 percent; and workers of law enforcement bodies—5.7 percent. This undoubtedly means one thing—representatives of all interested circles try to fight for power also in a legitimate way. The decrease in the number of managers among the candidates was assessed by Ivan Yemets very simply: The parliament will work on a professional basis.

I. Yemets also mentioned one more consoling fact. The current parliament has very few lawyers; the situation in the future one may be changed: There are 10.4 percent

lawyers and 8.54 percent economists among the candidates. With regard to their professions, the candidates are divided in the following way: engineers and technicians—24.6 percent; education workers—15.6 percent; medical workers—6.3 percent; journalists—3.09 percent; and agricultural workers—over 7 percent.

Among the candidates for deputies, 77 percent are Ukrainians; 18.6 percent are Russians; the rest are of 20 other nationalities. Higher education is completed by 89.6 percent of the candidates, secondary and secondary vocational education—by 8.8 percent; 43.2 percent (according to questionnaires) of the candidates can speak foreign languages.

Parliament may be exclusively masculine (there are only 7.4 percent of females among the candidates) and of urban-site residents (there are 14.53 percent of rural-site representatives among the candidates).

With regard to age, the future parliament may be medium-aged: 90.5 percent of the candidates are between 31 and 60 years old; more than 4 percent are over 60 years old; and 5.3 percent are between 25 and 30 years old. Thus, dear electors, there are candidates for every taste. So, the main issue is to elect them.

Democrats Discuss Coalition 'Propositions'

WS0803192394 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYIV in Ukrainian 5 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Svitlana Synyakova: "Democrats Will Unite. But When?"]

[Text] Many politicians think that our democrats will unite only five minutes before their execution. However, "the roundtable" organized at the VECHIRNIY KYIV editorial office has given reasons for believing that such a prognosis is not quite true. At least, neither Levko Lukyanenko, nor Kostyantyn Morozov, nor Vitaliy Karpenko, nor Yuriy Hnatkevich, nor other participants in the discussion cast even a doubt regarding the possibility for unifying dispersed national democratic forces. On the contrary, a number of principal propositions was put forward, which can underlie the creation of a political force embracing the Ukrainian Republican Party, Rukh, the Democratic Party of Ukraine, the Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine, the national wing of the Party of the Democratic Revival of Ukraine, and those remaining for the time being outside political parties. These propositions include the independence of Ukraine, the safeguarding of personal freedom, as well as political and economic reforms, much discussed, but not initiated.

Such a consolidation is especially necessary in view of the presidential elections planned for this year. In order to prevent a repetition of the previous elections, national democrats have to appoint a single candidate and secure his victory. Can this be done? Yes, if party leaders cast off their ambitions and give priority to a real candidate.

They will have to set aside their ambitions. Naturally, if Ukraine is really dearer to them than their ego.

Rukh Says Presidential Elections 'Illogical'

WS0903100494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Rukh believes that holding presidential elections without determining the presidential status and authority by the [words indistinct] Supreme Council is illogical. This is the essence of a statement by the Rukh Small Council, which was publicized today. According to Council members, the people should know whom they are going to elect—only a head of state, or a head of executive authority. The Small Council also resolved to immediately begin preparations for local elections by all the Rukh structures.

Nationalists Ready for Active Elections Role

WS0803162794 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 4

[Report by Yuliya Pshenko: "Social Nationalists Are Not Eager To Assume Power"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Social National Party [SNPU] was noticed for the first time in the summer of 1992 when its leaflets appeared in Lvov. It was not so much their contents as the party's symbol, which looked very much like a swastika, that attracted particular attention. At that time, the SNPU backbone was comprised of members of "Rukh's Guard"—youngsters that used to be bodyguards of former dissidents some time ago. When the "Guard's" militants were all done performing their functions, they were "befriended" by a Yaroslav Andrushkiv (he used to be responsible for the physical fitness program for "Rukh's Guard" members), who realized that he could capitalize on those boys. After some time, the new organization began to attract the Lvov youth. Its ranks were joined by members of other organizations, such as "Spadshchyna," [Heritage] "Plast," [Scouts] and "Studentske Bratstvo" [Student Brotherhood].

However, it was last summer when the party became especially vocal. Let us just recall the furious reaction of Lvov residents to the Black Sea Fleet Treaty signed by L. Kravchuk. The entire city was rocked then by a wave of rallies, where SNPU members showed themselves in all their glory. At one of them, a party's member said out loud: "I dream about staging the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day for Russians, but we don't have enough strength, so far." It was, however, just enough for them to form the "Committee for Protection of Nation and State" that included all far right organizations. The Committee actively engaged in forming "people's detachments" ready to execute any order of their leaders. At their rallies, the nationalists yelled that Ukrainian tanks would shoot at the Kremlin. So far, they have managed to get away with it—maybe because no one takes them seriously? But the newly emerged Nazis

continue to spread their wings, increasing their profile. Unidentified thugs shattered windows in all of the Russian high schools in Lvov and left as a keepsake slogans that read: "Moscow mugs, get out of Ukraine!" It is not difficult to guess who were the most immediate suspects. Later last fall, SNPU members assaulted the building of the URP [Ukrainian Republican Party] oblast department, cracked down on one of the local organizations of the "Student Brotherhood" (by that time, the Lvov student community had split into those who joined the SNPU and those who declined). And very recently, the SNPU boys instigated a brawl in the "Postup" cafeteria, where they often dropped in. They explained later that it was not them, and that the bartender simply managed to identify the cafeteria's habitués only.

However, all those "little pranks" are nothing compared with the Social Nationalists' intention of vigorously participating in the upcoming elections. Although the party is not officially registered—and it will hardly be in the nearest future—its 21 candidates were proposed for legislature in the Lvov Oblast districts. The Social Nationalists are sure that this time, people should vote for the true nationalist patriots, and not for those who joined only recently. They believe that all present legislative deputies must resign, except for S. Khmara or I. Kalynets.

The Social Nationalists are not eager to seize power today. They understand that their time has not yet come. But they do not doubt that it eventually will. The SNPU leader Andrushkiv said: "We will just wait until people are tired of anarchy, and will ask us to grab power. And you bet, we will!"

Nationalist Leader on Donbass Pro-Russian Activities

WS0903131694 Lutsk VARODNA TRYBUNA in Ukrainian 2 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with Mariya Oliynyk, chairman of the Donetsk Oblast branch of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, by Viktor Verbych; place and date not given: "The Time Belongs to Moscow, but Ukrainian Spring Is Already on the Doorstep"]

[Text] [Verbych] What is the life in this Russified land, in which, apparently, pro-imperial and anti-Ukrainian forces are currently dominating?

[Oliynyk] The life there, of course, is more interesting than in Volyn. Perhaps it is much harder, but therefore more interesting. The power of action equals the power of counteraction. We must stay in good shape all the time, as sportsmen say. We have united democratic national forces in the Democratic Donetsk [Demokratychna Donechchyna] bloc, which includes 15 organizations such as the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Union of Ukrainian Youth, the Plast [scouting organization], and the Prosvita [cultural society]. On the other hand, procommunist forces are still very active there, as they were before. Following the events that took place in

Moscow last October, however, it became obvious that they were defeated. Pro-Yeltsin forces have recently come into prominence.

[Verbych] As a matter of fact, these forces are also pro-imperial, but perhaps with more a considerable dose of demagoguery.

[Oliynyk] Exactly. They say that they support a market economy and privatization, however, only in Russia—claiming that without it, we will not survive. Everything is oriented toward Russia, even our time zone is the same as Moscow's, according to a resolution of the Oblast Council.

[Verbych] Certain steps have been therefore taken toward autonomy, and eventually toward seceding from the Ukrainian state.

[Oliynyk] Do not forget about the so-called experiment: Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Luhansk, and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts form a special economic zone. Moreover, the authors of the experiment will not submit appropriate documents to the Supreme Council for adoption, since they have already received support from certain presidential circles. Everything will be resolved by a presidential decree. Actually, one of the Crimean options is being worked out in our oblast. A peculiar supreme council of the four oblasts is to be established soon. The only thing that distinguishes us from the Crimea is the fact that 51 percent of our population is Ukrainian (according to the 1989 census, during which many Ukrainians were registered as Russians). Even those Russians who have been living in Donbas for a long time, however, are not like those who bask in the Crimean sun. The majority of people in Donetsk Oblast understand who really wants what, and what have been, and will be, the consequences of a pro-Moscow policy.

[Verbych] The authors of the experiment, however, hide themselves under the slogan "in the name of the people," as the Bolsheviks used to do. I would like to hear your opinion about the Liberal Party headed by Markulov, who was recently an adviser to Kravchuk. To what extent does this party advocate the interests of the new pro-Moscow forces?

[Oliynyk] The Liberal Party does not register its members. There have been statements claiming that the party has 6,000 members in the Donetsk region alone. However, how could this number be substantiated if the party does not register its members? This is nonsense. There were 200 people at the party's electoral conference held on 6 November. I believe that this is all the party's membership. The party is very different in various regions. Whereas Kyselyova, vice president of the Liberal Party's branch in Lvov, speaks Ukrainian, the party's Donetsk branch is no different than communist forces. Our liberals openly state: "Only together with Russia." On 3 June, they, however, removed from their statute a resolution on federalization and bilingualism. They could achieve success only due to the fact that they have significant funds.

[Verbych] Mrs. Mariya, there are, of course, certain achievements that testify to the fact that the Donetsk region is an integral part of Ukraine.

[Oliynyk] It cannot be said that there are not, but there are only a few such achievements. For example, we opened the first Ukrainian school in 1990 with the help of the United Nations. In 1993, it was much easier to open the 12th high school in Donetsk and the first Ukrainian gymnasium in Kramatorsk, which 450 children now attend. On 1 December 1993, we managed to open the first Ukrainian kindergarten in Donetsk.... You should know that the fact that our Ukrainian people speak Russian does not mean that they are against Ukrainian. The Ukrainian language is taught at the Ukrainian high school, there are 11 Ukrainian groups at the university, and one group at the medical institute. Whereas we had 23 Ukrainian classes in Donetsk last year, there are now 60 such classes.

[Verbych] As the first and last president of the former USSR used to say, the process has started.

[Oliynyk] Nobody is able to halt this. However, there still are scouting camps, at which children wear red bandannas and attend solemn meetings on 7 November [anniversary of the October revolution]. Nevertheless, the stronghold of the empire is receding into the past with every day and every hour. The process continues! Without useless pathos, through our everyday hard work, we endeavor to prevent a wedge from being driven between Ukrainian territories, dividing them between East and West.

People's Movement Statement on Election Issues

LD0803234394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2130 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev, 8 Mar—A sitting of the Lesser Council of the People's Movement of Ukraine took place on 7 March. Its participants adopted a statement, which notes in particular: "The People's Movement of Ukraine appealed to all of Ukraine's political forces back in the autumn with a request to avoid discussing the issue of electing a president of Ukraine and possible candidates for this post during the Supreme Council election campaign.

"With his latest statements about the untimeliness of presidential elections and his possible non-participation in them, President Kravchuk has caused political tension in society, which could be negatively reflected in the Supreme Council elections.

"Under such conditions the Lesser Council of the People's Movement of Ukraine considers holding presidential elections before either the existing or the newly-elected Supreme Council decides on the status and powers of Ukraine's president to be illogical (?and) differing from the practice of civilized countries. The

people of Ukraine should know whom they will be electing: Only the head of state or the head of executive power.

"We are calling on all political parties, public organizations and groupings to refrain from discussing candidacies for the post of president of Ukraine in the mass media. All forces should be concentrated on the Supreme Council elections not being disrupted, because this would lead Ukraine to anarchy or dictatorship by the nomenklatura elite.

"We believe that following Ukraine's Supreme Council elections, parties and public organizations of a national-democratic tendency should hold consultations with the aim of agreeing on a single candidacy for the post of president from all of the national-democratic forces."

Lvov Oblast Elections Situation Assessed

WS0803160094 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 4 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Oleh Olenyuk: "Candidates Are Assuming Their Natural Role: Everybody Fights Everybody"]

[Text] The current electoral battles for the 23 seats assigned for Lvov Oblast have revealed a rather sad trend—parochial interests prevail over national ones. Attempts by national democrats, whose standing in the region is higher than that of other parties to form electoral blocs with their opponents, have remained an unattainable dream in the oblast. As a result of this, about 10 different parties have registered for the elections, including communists and national socialists. The motley candidate lists and democrats' tactics of creating artificial competition within their own ranks, may produce unexpected results and grant unwanted people participation in the second round of elections. Although the probability of such an outcome is quite problematic given the majority electoral system, it cannot be disregarded.

Speaking of different political blocs' chances in the current electoral marathon, those of the Rukh and the New Wave association seem more preferable. These two affiliated organizations (most New Wave nominees enjoy Rukh's support) can count on 60-70 percent of the seats granted for Lvov Oblast. The only people capable of changing this proportion are the new nomenklatura from the presidential administration and local councils. Some of these people have nothing against acting under the Rukh's umbrella. The unquestionable leaders of this bilateral (or tripartite) union are Yukhnovskyy, Pynzenyk, Kosiv, Lavrynovych, Kendzior, Boychyshyn, and Oblast Council Chairman Mykola Horyn.

Only one member of the Congress of National Democratic Forces has a chance of winning a legislative seat, namely Mykhaylo Horyn's former deputy Oleh Pavlyshyn. Mykhaylo Horyn himself is going to face a fierce political showdown with his one-time partner Stepan Khmara. However, if the congress formed a bloc with

Larysa Skoryk's Nationwide Movement and the anti-Chornovil democratic nomenklatura, such a right-center coalition could win as many as 30 percent of the seats. Democratic nationalists from the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists can count on two or three seats in rural districts. The situation of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists is similar. The followers of Melnyk [nationalist leader of 1940's] can win one or two seats.

The dramatic increase in the popularity of the ultraright National Independence of Ukraine [DSU], the Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA], and the national socialists is one of the unexpected phenomena of recent weeks. Promises to restore order and make Ukraine rich could grant them and the Conservative Republican Party victories in 30 percent of the districts. However under the current circumstances, this group can only expect two to four seats. If the rightist parties manage to discredit the democrats by accusing them of accepting bribes and noting the semitic origin of their capital and their readiness to betray Ukraine's national interests, their claims on legislative seats might become much more substantiated. However this camp too, has not rid itself of the democrats' disease of infighting. National Self-Defense candidate Vitovych has been nominated candidate in one district with DSU member Shcherbatyuk; national socialists Hodysh and Tyahnybok are going to fight against UNA's Shkil and Ostap Kozak respectively.

Only the extreme left parties—communists and socialists led by Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee member Adam Martynyuk, are not experiencing any of these problems. Their chances to win the elections in at least one urban district are miserable. Yet, these people could receive some votes from naturalized immigrants in urban districts with a high percentage of Russian-speaking voters, and thus make it to the second round of elections. However this is everything they can dream of. The so-called independent candidates are in a similar situation and can count either on votes from their relatives and friends, or on their own capital.

Crimean Politician Proposes Interethnic Coordination

WS0803163394 Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Boris Sergeevich Balayan, chairman of the Crimean Party of Interethnic Trust, by O. Volodin; place and date not given: "The Crimean Party of Interethnic Trust Finds Supporters Not Only in the Crimea"—first two paragraphs are O. Volodin commentary]

[Text] Recently, the Political Council of the Crimean Party of Interethnic Trust [KPMI] came forward with an initiative that deserves our attention and support. The essence of this initiative is that the activities of the political parties and movements in the Crimea and outside of it should be coordinated on the principles of interethnic and civil accord. Permanent meetings of these parties and movements in their joint headquarters

in the Crimea could become one of the mechanisms for the implementation of this idea. We queried KPMD Chairman Boris Sergeevich Balayan on their initiative.

[Volodin] Boris Sergeevich, what specific parties and public movements would you like to invite to participate in the Crimean "roundtable"?

[Balayan] Like-minded people, those political parties that do not simply speak about the principles of interethnic and civil accord and about peace but consequently look for opportunities to implement such noble principles. We negotiate, for example, with the party of "Russian Unity and Accord," headed by Sergey Shakhrai, and with the popular political association in Ukraine headed by Vladimir Grinev and Leonid Kuchma. Besides, there are parties that advocate our principles in other parts of the Black Sea region, and in the states which are motherlands for many of Crimeans of various nationalities. These are Armenia, Greece, Bulgaria, Germany, and many other countries.

[Volodin] The CSCE deals with the issues of keeping peace in the European home, there are many organizations which deal with the economy, science, and culture of many countries. How can you justify the creation of one more center in the Crimea?

[Balayan] Our idea was not born in an empty place. The Crimea can claim the establishment of such a center on its geographical location, and historical traditions; we proceed from the task of turning our peninsula into a connecting link between the neighboring states, the region of peace and accord.

Independent experts and scientists—who are not usually engaged in political competition—could draft scientific recommendations, a sort of code of rules on how to pursue a civilized policy for statesmen and political leaders at the meetings of parties of various ethnic membership. Of course, joint consultations of political scientists from Russia, Ukraine, Transcaucasia, and other states of the Black Sea region could help analyze the developments and foresee the future. In other words, we could prevent many negative conflicts so that we do not act "in a hurry," as it has been common for us until now.

Finally, the setting up of such a permanent international body in the Crimea would objectively widen our economic, cultural, and social relations with a wide range of states as an answer to common interests.

[Volodin] Do you believe in the success of your idea?

[Balayan] Not only because we should believe in the eternal good. Our proposals have already met with the understanding of like-minded people from the interethnic parties outside the Crimea. I hope that the new Crimean president will pay attention to our proposal.

Official Says Chernobyl Still Source of Danger

LD0903140694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1146 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] The Chernobyl nuclear power station remains a source of nuclear-explosion and radiation danger. Mikhail Umanets, chairman of the Ukrainian State Nuclear Power Committee, told an International Conference of Soviet-Made Nuclear Reactor Users, which opened in Moscow Wednesday, that experts were especially worried over the condition of the fourth Chernobyl power unit that had been destroyed by the 1986 explosion. Umanets said that the unit could be made safe within three to five years if developed countries helped.

Umanets said that "as long as it is short of energy and cash Ukraine cannot afford closing the Chernobyl station." He thought that the station could be transformed into a store for radioactive waste.

He emphasized that all the processing and storing units were situated in Russia and that Russia had been refusing to accept Ukraine's radioactive waste which therefore had to be kept at Ukrainian nuclear power stations.

Umanets complained of skilled personnel leaving Ukrainian nuclear power stations where they are paid less than in Russia. Over 2000 people, about 1000 of whom were highly-skilled personnel, had quit jobs in Ukrainian nuclear power stations in 1993.

Prospective Privatization of 3 State Plants

LD0703203694 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has issued instructions containing a permit to privatize the property of Zaporozhye's state steel-rolling plant, Kherson's combine harvester plant, and Khartsyzsk's state steel wire and cable works. The State Property Fund is to endorse plans for the privatization of these enterprises and to agree them with the relevant ministries and Ukraine's Antimonopoly Committee.

Trends, Pricing Information Directorate Established

LD0703212194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] The Trends and Pricing Information Directorate has been set up at Ukraine's External Economic Relations Ministry. It will take steps to ensure Ukraine's foreign economic activity entities safeguard the interests of the state in the sphere of pricing policy on external markets.

Secret Service on 'Dirty' Billions in Swiss Banks
WS0803162494 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 4 Mar 94 pp 4,5

[Interview with Colonel Hryhoriy Omelchenko, chief of the Security Service Military Counterintelligence Department for Fighting Organized Crime and Corruption, by unidentified UKRAYINA MOLODA correspondent in Poltava; date not given: "Democracy Is a Mother of Order, But Mafia Is Immortal"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] I cannot ignore your recent statement about \$18 billion allegedly deposited in Western, mostly Swiss, banks by 500 "select" Ukrainian citizens and your readiness to make public the entire list of the owners of this fabulous wealth. This statement will undoubtedly win you more votes in the elections. However, people that have even a slight idea about professionalism would laugh at this, saying that having looked for Polubotok's gold in England [reference to claims that Ukraine should try to recover the money once deposited by a Ukrainian nobleman in a British bank]; now we will wait to receive \$18 billion from Switzerland. Where is your list? Where are the facts and documents acknowledged by foreign financial bodies and governments that can help recover at least one "dirty" dollar?

[Omelchenko] Let me explain something. The mass media carried not very precise reports about the news conferences on the results of the international seminar on fighting the spread of money laundering, held in Kiev on 15-17 December 1993. Speaking at that news conference, I pointed out that foreign media had cited experts and written about \$15 or even \$18 billion belonging to Ukrainian citizens, commercial, and state structures and deposited in Western banks. According to our experts, that figure is exaggerated and the actual sum is \$7 to \$8 billion.

What makes us think so? Let me cite some figures. In 1992, some 1,500 licenses were issued in Ukraine for exporting various products and raw materials. Not taking into account barter operations, those products were worth more than \$5 billion. However, the hard currency fund of Ukraine received only \$97.7 million. In the first half of 1993, more than \$4 billion worth of products and raw materials were shipped out of Ukraine, while the budget received only a little more than \$100 million. By summing up these figures we can deduce the volume of foreign deposits. I spoke about this at the news conference.

Given that almost two-thirds of Ukraine's hard currency is being kept in Swiss banks, I have asked the chief of the Swiss Federal Ministry of Justice Criminal Department a couple of questions. The questions concerned the possible ways to carry out an investigation of the legality of Ukrainian citizens' currency operations. In particular, I wanted to know whether Switzerland would answer our

official legal motion to provide information about concrete Ukrainian deposit-holders suspected of violations of the law.

With regard to recovering the "dirty dollars," our "God-fathers" have nothing to worry about. The laws of the Swiss "bank empire" are very liberal for people like them. Remember that even after the International Court in the Hague confirmed the validity of Philippine claims on the \$20 billion embezzled by former dictator Marcos, the money remained in Switzerland.

However this does not mean that Ukraine should hold off on ratifying the Council of Europe convention on the laundering of money, and the search, arrest, and confiscation of illegally acquired profits. Since 1992, the Ukrainian Secret Service leadership has repeatedly requested that the Supreme Council discuss this issue. [passage omitted]

Officers Accuse Military Leaders of Hampering Development

WS0803155394 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 3 Mar 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "What Provokes Destabilization?"]

[Text] "The new Defense Ministry leadership is hampering the establishment of the Ukrainian Armed Forces." These words begin a statement sent to our paper by the Union of Officers of Ukraine [SOU], which has been signed by SOU Chairman Major General Oleksandr Rol. The statement points out that although concerns over strengthening the defense system of our country are voiced in the media, they are not followed up with practical activities. Offshoots of democratic and national traditions are being squandered; the Ukrainian language is being introduced in the Army very slowly. Again, as it was in the former Soviet Army, "officers' meetings" are being reintroduced, which have always served for the reactionary army leadership as an element of pressuring its subordinates.

Responsible military leaders want to drag the Ukrainian Armed Forces into the CIS Joint Forces. Dismissals of servicemen who refuse to serve Ukraine and want to go abroad are being stalled. The implementation of a program for national, military-patriotic education of servicemen and youth is being delayed. The SOU, reads the statement, is against the unilateral nuclear disarmament of Ukraine, the transfer of Black Sea Fleet vessels to Russia, the lease of the city of Sevastopol and its onshore infrastructure, and deployment of foreign troops on our country's territory. The SOU considers prolonged delays in payments to contract servicemen and the failure to provide housing for them, which deteriorates their living conditions, as a dangerous action which provokes destabilization in certain military units and generates an unwillingness to serve in the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

The statement concludes with an appeal to the Ukrainian president to immediately resolve the social and legal problems of servicemen, which are destabilizing the situation in the Armed forces, and which are a consequence of pressure on our state and its internal affairs.

Kiev Officers Call for Nationwide Referendum

WS0803192294 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian
5 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "On Sea or Land—Let Us Be Ourselves"]

[Text] Activists of the Kiev branch of the Officers' Union of Ukraine [SOU] at their meeting have proposed submitting questions on our state security and integrity to a nationwide referendum.

As is known, the protocol "On regulation of problems of the Black Sea Fleet," signed by the Ukrainian and Russian presidents in Masandra in September 1993, entrusted "the governmental delegations of Ukraine and the Russian Federation with the task of studying, within one month, all questions relevant to the drafting of an agreement, in accordance with which the entire Black Sea Fleet along with its infrastructure in the Crimea can be used by Russia and bear Russian symbols, providing the Russian side will make appropriate settlements for half of the Black Sea Fleet, including its infrastructure, which by virtue of previous agreements was assigned to Ukraine" (taken from the original). Ukraine's leadership, emphasizes the recent statement of SOU Kiev branch, has declined to inform the people of the truth about the Masandra agreement in every possible way. Ukraine's Defense Minister K. Morozov, who resisted the selling of Ukrainian territory and property, was dismissed from his post.

Having postponed the above-mentioned agreement (but not given up its intents), the state leadership adopted a course for transferring nuclear weapons to Russia. Through pro-Moscow specialists in nuclear weapons, a preconceived and purposeful campaign has been launched to threaten the Ukrainian people with the possible consequences of keeping warheads on the Ukrainian territory. In addition, the state leadership hides Ukraine's rejection of the proposal from U.S. firms to build a joint enterprise for reprocessing uranium from warheads into nuclear fuel for nuclear power plants, from which Ukraine could derive great profits. Moreover, public opinion is not informed of the fact that Ukraine primarily transfers to Russia those nuclear weapons whose shelf life expires in 2005, while those already unfit for use are remaining.

Having acquired the Supreme Council support for the trilateral agreement on transferring Ukrainian nuclear weapons to Russia, our state leadership returned to the Masandra agreement on transferring Ukraine's part of the Black Sea Fleet to Russia "to pay off debts," as well as on leasing the Black Sea shoreland in the Crimea and Sevastopol together with its infrastructure. In addition

to that, our leaders do not even raise the question of Russian troops' withdrawal from Ukraine's territory.

Feeling itself responsible for the destiny of Ukraine, for the destiny of the servicemen of Ukraine's Armed Forces, reads the statement, the Kiev branch of the SOU thinks that the questions of Ukraine's security and integrity (nuclear status, lease of the territory, state and administration system, deployment of foreign troops, selling of the Black Sea Fleet) should be submitted to a nationwide referendum on 27 March 1994.

National Guard Officer Views Military Doctrine

WS0903100094 Lvov SHLYAKH PEREMOHY in Ukrainian
5 Mar 94 p 5

[Interview with National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Volodymyr Korkodym, editor of VIYSKO UKRAYINY, by Serhiy Kulida in New York; date not given: "Ukraine's Likely Enemy—Russia"]

[Text] [Kulida] Lieutenant Colonel, Sir, Ukraine's military doctrine was the main topic of the speech you delivered in New York. I would like you to at least outline the essence of your speech.

[Korkodym] Ukraine's military doctrine anticipates that a state, which includes claims against Ukraine as part of its official policy, will be considered by Ukraine as an enemy, and Ukraine will be forced to defend itself. We have openly stated in our magazine that Russia is Ukraine's likely enemy. Our scientists who work on strategic research have confirmed this statement. According to their studies, Poland, Romania, and Hungary can also become our possible enemies. I do not believe, however, that a conflict with any of these countries is possible in the near future. Nevertheless, if we do not take care of our security, problems may appear.

Russia's military doctrine, no matter with what words it is camouflaged, remains imperial in nature, and we understand this very well. Ukraine's military doctrine, on the contrary, is peaceful. It is a policy of a neutral country which wants to live peacefully with its neighbors, even those who are currently making territorial claims against it.

[Kulida] I believe that you have in mind our "elder brother," or more precisely "elder sister," Russia.... Your statement is not groundless, since Russia is very cleverly using national conflicts which have recently erupted in the former USSR.

[Korkodym] Exactly. For example, Moldova... or Transcaucasus, where two Russian battalions were deployed and, clad in Abkhazian fatigues, fought on the Georgian front. It can be said that this is one of the reasons that forced the Georgian Government to sit at the negotiating table and eventually return to the CIS. With Ukraine, the same thing will be harder to achieve.

There is another example: While withdrawing its regiments and divisions from East Europe, Russia is deploying them on the borders with Ukraine and Belarus. The 46th division was withdrawn from Czechoslovakia in this manner. Two motorized regiments were deployed in Kharkiv Oblast—which were later subordinated to the Ukrainian National Guard—and two heavy artillery regiments and a tank regiment were deployed on Russian territory near the Ukrainian border. Although Russia's military power is significant, the Russian Army is demoralized. Russia is not ready for a military action against Ukraine.

[Kulida] This, however, should not tranquilize us. There is still the problem of the Black Sea Fleet.

[Korkodym] This problem is extremely complex.... This is a question of the far-sighted imperial policy of Russia. The Black Sea Fleet is the main threat to a free Ukraine. We committed a very serious error by not removing Admiral Kasatonov from command, giving him instead the opportunity to freely command the fleet that is deployed on Ukrainian territory. This issue was forced into a corner, and it was not resolved in time. The situation is not improving currently, and a conflict can erupt just in the Crimea, in Sevastopol. For example, when we sent our draftees, the Ukrainian boys were not admitted on Navy vessels, and they [Russians] secretly brought in Russian seamen from Novorosiysk.

Although we have only a few naval ships today, new ones are being built in Mykolayiv, Kherson, and Kiev. Every year, 10 completed vessels will be launched. The morale of our sailors who serve in the Navy is very high, and this is very important, because, I am not afraid to say this, they are surrounded by our potential enemies, and in case of emergency, they will have to resist the first blow of the enemy.

[Kulida] By the way, have not they lost their heart in connection with the transfer of nuclear weapons, which is very strange, taking into account postulates of Ukraine's military doctrine toward Russia.

[Korkodym] I believe that we are not giving up our nuclear weapons today. We gave them up before, when we allowed medium-range missiles be transferred to Russia. These were the most modern and mobile missiles, and in case of emergency, they were able to defend Ukraine. We retained strategic missiles targeted at the United States, whose levers of command remain in Moscow anyway. Ukraine, of course, will never wage a war against the United States. Russia acted more decisively, and the medium-range missiles were simply stolen. I blame this on the inexperience of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and their leadership.

[Kulida] Since we have already touched upon nuclear weapons, how do you assess the signing of the tripartite agreement among Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin?

[Korkodym] The Ukrainian president let the world know that the Ukrainian state is peaceful, and it acts according to the norms of international relations. It is very hard to withstand someone's position among such giants as the United States and Russia, even because of the current economic situation in Ukraine. Therefore, this was another forced, and probably necessary, step made by the Ukrainian president. We, servicemen, should not despair however.

[Kulida] Let us return to military and state issues. To what extent, in your opinion, is Ukraine protected against interference in its internal affairs?

[Korkodym] We have almost 600,000 servicemen in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, 20,000 troops in the National Guard, and a slight lower number of soldiers serve in the Border Troops. As of today, the National Guard and the Border Troops protect the borders with Russia and Belarus. Previously, they assumed protection over our Western borders. There are already checkpoints and customs houses. These units were also deployed on the Moldovan border when a conflict erupted in that country, and they prevented the conflict from spreading to Ukraine. This was an initial form of combat training, or sorts.

Of course, the Army and the state are tightly connected. We also have economic problems.

It must be said that there was a problem with transforming the Soviet Army, or more precisely a part of it, into the Ukrainian one until quite recently. This attitude was, however, wrong. This was also admitted by Defense Minister General Radetsky, and even the Supreme Council session addressed this issue. Now, this question is formulated differently, as not transforming but establishing the Ukrainian Armed Forces on a new ideological basis and new values. There is another question that bothers me a lot. A precise program for establishing a modern and professional army has not yet been worked out.

[Kulida] In young countries, and Ukraine as a state is just being formed, success in establishing a military system as well as a state one depends on the military. What is the mood among Ukrainian officers?

[Korkodym] I will frankly say that not all the officers who have taken the oath of allegiance to Ukraine, and who are predominantly Russians who came to serve here in the times of the USSR, are convinced that they will protect the interests of Ukraine. They have taken the oath only because they have obtained housing here, since

it is in short supply in Russia. We have conducted research and found out that there are many such officers. These people are currently returning to Russia, they are being relieved from their oath, and nobody is disturbing them. Only officers who are dedicated patriots remain with us. This is the main precondition for the reliable protection of Ukraine.

[Kulida] Let us address another extremely important issue—youth and the Army.

[Korkodym] This issue is both important and painful. We have inherited all the troubles that existed in the Soviet Army. First of all, this is the bullying of conscripts. The Defense Ministry has worked out a program for combating this phenomenon. However, it will be impossible to overcome it without ideological education of youth according to traditions of Ukrainian history and literature, and on examples of famous sons and daughters of Ukraine. This task relates not only to the Army. This is, first of all, a task for the family, school, and state.

Kazakhstan**75 Percent Turnout at Polls Reported**

LD0903092994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841
GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov and KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Lunev]

[Text] Almaty March 9 TASS—There was a strong turnout at the elections to the Kazakh Parliament and local bodies of self-rule, which were held in Kazakhstan on March 7. According to preliminary results, some 75 per cent of the electorate went to the polls, or five-six per cent more than most bold home and foreign forecasters predicted.

According to chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Karatay Turysov, organisers of the elections were especially worried over northern regions in the republic, where Russian-speaking population and opposition politicians, especially among Cossacks, prevail.

They tried to dampen the high spirits of Kazakh voters. However, there was no boycott of the elections there. On the contrary, the percentage of voters who participated in the elections, was higher in the north than the country-wide average—over 80 per cent.

As for allegations by some Western mass media that there were numerous violations of the election procedure, Turysov dismissed them as groundless. No serious complaints have been sent to the Central Electoral Commission for the time being.

Those which have been filed, will be thoroughly examined, Turysov stressed, adding that appropriate conclusions will be made on each case.

CSCE Official Criticizes Election Anomalies

LD0803174794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733
GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The parliamentary and local elections held in Kazakhstan on March 7 failed to conform to international legal standards, a representative of the Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Elizabeth Winship, told a news conference in Almaty on Tuesday.

During the elections, six CSCE teams visited more than 50 polling stations in Almaty, Kapchagai, Issyk and other cities to supervise their opening and closing and the counting of votes.

Winship's conclusion that the elections were undemocratic is based on the fact that political parties and movements and individual candidates did not have enough time to organize their election campaigns, while

an entangled candidate registration procedure provoked offenses on the part of constituency electoral commissions.

In addition, the national roll compiled by President Nursultan Nazarbayev ensured 20 percent of seats in the future parliament for government officials, according to the CSCE experts.

There were registered cases where one person voted for several candidates. CSCE experts revealed instances where electoral commission members forged or replaced ballots. The Central Electoral Commission also withdrew independent candidates under unconvincing pretexts. There were cases when local authorities put pressure on electoral commissions, Winship said.

But the main flaw of the elections was that "many electors did not understand the system of voting and voted simultaneously for several candidates," the CSCE experts said. In some towns, such as Kapchagai, located only 60 km from Almaty, some polling stations were closed, which prevented about 5,000 people from voting.

Besides, the independent media had limited access to information on the elections, Winship said.

Further Election Criticism

LD0903133994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306
GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov, and KAZTAG correspondent Marat Kaliyev]

[Text] Almaty March 9 TASS—Observers from the delegation of the parliamentary assembly of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the international electoral systems foundation and a number of foreign countries, who monitored the republic's election campaign and polling, drew a categorical conclusion that, according to Western standards, Monday's elections in Kazakhstan were accompanied with an array of most flagrant violations in the procedure for a free expression of people's will and, it means, the election results should be recognised as invalid.

A list of election monitors' complaints, made available to the KAZTAG news agency on Wednesday, includes ten main points. Observers complained about the complexity of the republic's candidates registration system, the existence of a state list of contenders for parliament seats, the vagueness of the programmes of many candidates, and their poor coverage in local news media.

A group of observers monitoring the work of the Central Electoral Commission recognised it as unsatisfactory, listing as inadmissible for pluralistic democratic elections such irregularities as the casting of votes by one and the same person for himself and his relatives, the delivery of ballot-boxes to the homes of a number of voters, the lack of guards at some polling stations.

Foreign monitors were particularly angered by the fact that they were not given an opportunity to visit a number of military facilities where polling took place. They believe could harbour possibilities for various kinds of irregularities.

ITAR-TASS and KAZTAG correspondents requested commission chairman Karatai Turysov to comment on foreign observers' complaints. He said all the complaints are now being thoroughly scrutinised and appropriate explanations will be given either later on Wednesday or early on Thursday.

"Personally, I am not inclined to overdramatise the situation," Turysov said. "when evaluating polling arrangements, one should proceed from Kazakhstan's current realities. To ignore them is to take a prejudiced position beforehand."

"Take, for example, voting on the state list. This procedure was laid down by the previous self-dissolved parliament and to ignore it would be a direct breach of the current legislation.

"The same can be applied to polling taking place in some military units. Appropriate regulations for the guarding of state secrets make particularly secret defence facilities off limits to foreign observers. Polling there was personally monitored by members of district electoral commissions," Turysov said.

Incidentally, many other foreign observers, who hold more realistic positions—those from France, Russia, Turkmenistan, and a number of other countries—are well aware of that.

French Ambassador Bertrand Fessard de Foucault told the correspondents that he viewed arrangements for and the first results of the elections as an obvious success of young Kazakhstan democracy.

Committee: Statements 'Tactless'

LD0903134594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1146 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Secretary of Kazakhstan's Central Election committee Lyudmila Artamonova called the statement of the CSCE supervisors, stating that elections to the parliament and local power bodies in Kazakhstan do not correspond to international legal norms, as "extremely tactless." In her interview with Interfax she expressed the opinion that supervisors had no right to stage a press conference and give their assessment of the elections having not informed the Central Elections commission about their remarks beforehand.

At a press conference held in Almaty Tuesday representative of the CSCE bureau on democratic institutes and human rights Elizabeth Winship declared that the elections to the parliament and local power bodies held in Kazakhstan March 7 do not correspond to international legal norms.

At the same time Artamonova asserts, that during an official reception staged after the press conference leader of the CSCE delegation Jean van Nowling declared during his private conversation with chairman of the Central Election Committee Karatai Turysov that supervisors "have no special remarks."

Member of the Central Election Commission Talgatbek Abaydildin also qualifies statements of foreign supervisors as tactless. In his interview with Interfax he declared that one cannot judge about the democratic standards observed at elections in the whole republic basing on 3-4 facts of violations.

Well-informed sources in Kazakhstan's leadership in Almaty reported to Interfax that the republic's Foreign Ministry, in particular, is examining a statement of the CSCE supervisors and is going to present its answer in the near term.

Earlier Decree on Free Economic Zones Cancelled

LD0903112594 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0900 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] In connection with measures being taken in the republic to balance the budget on the basis of the Kazakhstan law of 10 December 1993 on temporary delegation of additional powers to the president of the republic of Kazakhstan and heads of local administrations, the president of the republic has decreed as follows.

To hold as no longer valid the decisions of the Supreme Kenges of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding the creation of the Atyrau, East Kazakhstan, Karaganda, and Mangistau free economic zones.

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan should submit a draft resolution of the Supreme Kenges of the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning this issue for examination by the newly elected Supreme Kenges of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

This decree has the legal power of a law and is valid until a relevant resolution of the Supreme Kenges is adopted.

The decree enters into force on the day of its publishing.

Tajikistan

General on Absence of Casualties in 4 Months

LD0803210194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 8 Mar 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Addressing servicemen's mothers, Colonel General Boris Pyankov, commander of the collective peace-keeping forces of the CIS in Tajikistan, says that:

[Begin Pyankov recording] Fortunately, during the four months that these peacekeeping forces have been functioning there have been no combat losses in their units; we did not lose a single person and during this entire time one serviceman was slightly injured". [end recording]

He then goes on to thank the mothers for sending their sons to Tajikistan and wishes a safe return home for every mother's son.

Situation Worsens in Kurgan-Tyube

LD0803121694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1103 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe, 8 Mar— It is now virtually impossible for journalists to obtain objective information from official sources about the situation in the former Kurgan-Tyube oblast. In recent days, the sociopolitical situation in Kurgan-Tyube and neighboring districts has become especially explosive. Local observers believe that, in spite of all decisions taken by the Dushanbe authorities on the disbanding and disarming of various paramilitary groups, these groups do not intend to hand over their weapons. Therefore, the possibility cannot be ruled out that the Government of Tajikistan may resort to force within the next few days as a way of resolving the conflict.

ITAR-TASS learned from military sources that the body of a former field commander of the People's Front of Tajikistan, Talat Mirusmanov, was discovered yesterday on the road linking Kurgan-Tyube and Dushanbe. Until November last year he was chief of staff of a special police unit deployed in Kurgan-Tyube. Mirusmanov was shot by unknown gunmen. The motive for the killing is being investigated by the republic's law enforcement agencies. However, local observers do not rule out the possibility that Talat Mirusmanov became the latest victim of violence amongst various armed groups in the former Kurgan-Tyube oblast. The Government of Tajikistan has virtually no control over these groups. Ten people, including Mirzo Saidov, chief of staff of a special Tajik defense ministry brigade, and Zargorov, an employee of the international nongovernmental organization, Medecins Sans Frontieres, have already died in the violence during the past month.

Russian Peacekeeper Shot Dead

LD0903111094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe March 9 TASS—Viktor Repin, a serviceman of the collective peacekeeping force stationed in Tajikistan, fell victim to unidentified gunmen.

Private Repin was on duty at a checkpoint of the 191st Motorised Rifle Regiment of the 201st Motorised Rifle Division stationed in Kurgan-Tyube when he was killed at 19.30 on Tuesday by gunmen from a passing car which fled to an unknown destination. An investigation was launched, Colonel-General Boris Pyankov, commander of the collective peacekeeping force in Tajikistan, told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

Commenting on the tragic incident, the general said the crime was committed by forces that seek to set the peacekeeping force and the people of Tajikistan at loggerheads, to destabilise the situation in the republic and provoke an armed conflict.

Way back in autumn and winter, military experts had predicted an increased activity of various terrorist sabotage groups on the republic's territory, pointing out that those groups would spring into still greater activity both inside Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan border as the warm season arrives, Pyankov said. The commander made it clear unambiguously that most resolute measures would be taken to ensure the safety of peacekeepers.

Touching upon the operational situation in the border areas of Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan border, Pyankov said it remains complex. Unidentified gunmen killed a local resident in Panj district in southern Tajikistan on March 8. The Narangan post and the 13th picket of the Moskovskiy border-guarding detachment were fired upon on Tuesday afternoon from a mortar and recoilless rifles on afghan territory. The foe's weapon emplacements were later neutralised. There were no losses among Russian border guards.

Opposition To Hold Direct Talks With Government

LD0803220694 Tehran IRNA in English 2139 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—In the wake of talks between Russian officials and Tajik opposition leaders in Tehran this week, head of the Tajik opposition Akbar Tourjanzadeh announced today that his group would hold direct talks with the government of Tajikistan.

He said the talks that are to be held with the coordination of the United Nations it is agreed that the representatives of Russia, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan will participate as mediators.

Tourjanzadeh said that in the talks with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin on March 6 and 7, the two sides discussed the possibility of direct talks with the government in Dushanbe.

He said the goal of the opposition is to delegate power to the representatives of the people of Tajikistan.

He appreciated the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran for solving the problem in his Central Asian homeland and said the people of Tajikistan have a lot of common grounds with the people of Iran.

According to Tourjanzadeh Russia has proposed that it will not play any role except to gather the representatives

of the opposition and the government of Dushanbe under the supervision of the United Nations.

He said the Russians also ask for continuous talks on a periodical basis in Moscow and Islamabad and Tehran "but we require that the talks be only on a periodical basis in Tehran and Moscow with a final agreement to be signed in Tehran, because Iran has been the first country that declared its readiness for that purpose."

Armenia

Deputy Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

LD0803195094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Armenian First Deputy Foreign Minister Zhirair Liparitian said his republic reaffirmed its position to the new Chairman of the Minsk Group for the Settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Jan Eliasson, at the recent talks in Yerevan. In the first place, Armenia seeks a ceasefire in the conflict area. However, this has become impossible without the presence of separating forces there.

Speaking at a news conference in Yerevan today, Liparitian pointed to the need for the entire world community to combine its efforts for the successful resolution of the issue.

"Russia and the CSCE must submit a united plan to the warring sides," Liparitian pointed out. He said Eliasson had agreed with this when he stayed in the Armenian capital.

The Armenian diplomat said armed formations must be withdrawn from certain territories after the establishment of a ceasefire in accordance with documents developed by Russia and the CSCE. Liparitian pointed out that both the Russian plan and the CSCE program envisioned a pull-out of Armenian forces from all territories they occupy, except for Lachin, while Azerbaijanis will have to leave Mardakert. The status of the Shaumian (Geranboi) district will remain as subject to further negotiations.

After this, vital communications should be unblocked and the political status of Nagorno-Karabakh should be submitted for consideration by the CSCE Minsk Group, according to Armenia.

Urges International Plan on Karabakh

NC0803185994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1038 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 8 (SNARK)—World community should offer the plan how to regulate the Karabakh conflict, [said] Zhirair Liparitian, first deputy foreign affairs minister of Armenia. Speaking to the journalists in Yerevan he mentions the primary task the Armenian leaders should solve—to guarantee the cease-fire. "Then troops should be withdrawn from the front line and blockade existing in the region should be stopped. And as the final point—the discussion of the Nagorno-Karabakh status at the Minsk conference", said Liparitian. Mr. Liparitian also mentioned that the withdrawal of the military groups out of the Lachin humanitarian corridor which connects Armenia to Karabakh is out of the question.

There should be mentioned, according to Mr. Liparitian, Turkey wouldn't want to see Russian disjunctive [disengagement] troops in the zone of the conflict. Nevertheless, the armistice is impossible without the participation of the peace-making forces.

More Details on Position on Karabakh

NC0803221194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2000 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The mediatory efforts and diplomatic exchanges on a settlement of the Karabakh conflict have again intensified. It could be stated that the new efforts to find a settlement within the CSCE framework, particularly Minsk Group Chairman Jan Eliasson's visit to Moscow and to this region, were to a certain extent prompted by the latest Russian initiative.

The news conference held today by Armenian First Deputy Foreign Minister Zhirair Liparitian was devoted to these developments and to his latest visits to Paris, Ankara, and Tehran.

In summing up all these developments, Mr. Liparitian noted that regrettably the CSCE's efforts have so far produced no results. He assessed Jan Eliasson's efforts as a serious attempt to revive that mediatory mission.

Mr. Liparitian then set out Armenia's position for the settlement of the problem. He said that at present priority is being given to the establishment of the ceasefire, which is impossible to achieve without separating the forces. And finally, the international mediatory efforts should be brought together and harmonized. This was in reference to the mediatory efforts of Russia and the CSCE. The international community must present to the conflicting sides one single plan which, besides the cease-fire issue, should spell out all those possible steps that would create an atmosphere of mutual confidence and allow talks to resume on the basic problem. Zhirair Liparitian considers these steps to be: The withdrawal of troops from certain territories, the lifting of the blockades, and finally an agreement to resolve the status of Nagorno-Karabakh at the Minsk conference.

Zhirair Liparitian said: We have presented this approach not only to Mr. Eliasson but also to Paris, Ankara, and Tehran. But, I reiterate that the highest priority is the establishment of a cease-fire.

Withdrawal of Separatists Backed

NC0803141594 Paris AFP in English 1346 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 8 (AFP)—Armenia said Tuesday it backed the withdrawal of Armenian separatist forces from Nagorno-Karabakh from territory conquered from Azerbaijan in return for the deployment of an international buffer force.

Armenian deputy foreign minister Zhirair Liparityan told a press conference here that he backed a combination of Russian and Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) peace plans for Nagorno-Karabakh, which provide for peacekeeping troops and observers in the region after a ceasefire.

Fighting Continues in South Karabakh

NC0803151194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Tension persists in the southeast of the Karabakh war front. The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Press Service has reported that the Karabakh formations repeatedly halted the enemy's attacks toward Fizuli yesterday. For the past six days the Azerbaijani troops have been trying to break through the NKR's forward defense lines in the sector.

Various types of guns were used to resume shelling of Karabakh positions in this sector this morning.

Relative calm prevails on the other war fronts.

The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service has just reported that relative calm is also prevailing on Armenia's borders.

CSCE Official on Talks With President

LD0803173994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The Karabakh conflict and CSCE and Russia's peace plans were discussed by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and CSCE Minsk Group Chairman Jan Eliasson in Yerevan Monday, officials in the president's press service told Interfax.

Following the meeting Eliasson described the talks he had with Armenian, Karabakh and Azerbaijan leaders as "interesting and constructive." He expressed the hope that the peace process could be stepped up by the Minsk Group.

Eliasson told journalists that an agreement would soon be made on sending international observers into the war zone. He admitted that the issues of a truce, troop withdrawal and security guarantees for the population had not been resolved and said that they would be discussed jointly with Russia.

Speaking of Moscow's mediation, in particular of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's efforts, Eliasson said that all parties should act in unison so as to obtain the best possible results.

He told Interfax that the warring parties appreciated the urgent need to resolve the Karabakh problem politically and this was a major achievement. For this reason, he believed, the CSCE, notably its Minsk Group, activity should not be regarded as unproductive.

Azeri Misuse of Foreign Aid To Buy Arms Charged

NC0803185194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1038 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Stepanakert, March 8 (SNARK)—"Main part of the humanitarian relief coming from international organizations and single states for the Azerbaijani refugees is being used by the Azerbaijani authorities to cover the military expenditures and to acquire new kinds of weapons", Kamo Abrahamyan, Head of the Nagorno-Karabakh State Department of National Security, told journalists.

According to Mr. Abrahamyan, State Department of National Security is aware of the facts of purchasing new kinds of military hardware in Ukraine spending humanitarian 40 million dollars sent by Turkey Government, 500,000 USD [U.S. dollars] UK sent to the UN fund for the Azerbaijani refugees and 1 million USD supplied by the Irani Central Bank and multiple investments of some oil companies of the world were spent to buy the shells for "Grad" launchers.

All the facts show Azerbaijani course to involve all these humanitarian relief suppliers into the war.

Opposition Forms 'Shadow Cabinet'

LD0803194494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Armenia's opposition has formed a "shadow cabinet."

The 39-member coalition shadow government, whose composition was published on Tuesday and is to be put before President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, is headed by ex-prime minister Vazgen Manukian, formerly one of the leaders of Ter-Petrosyan's Armenian National Movement and today one of the leaders of the National Democratic Union.

National Democratic Union member David Vardanian, head of the parliamentary Foreign Relations Commission, has become the shadow foreign minister. Vagan Oganessian from Dashnaksutyun, the largest opposition party, has taken the defense portfolio. Ter-Petrosyan's former national security adviser Ashot Manucharian has been appointed interior minister, while the post of industry minister has gone to Karen Demirchian, former leader of the Armenian Communist Party. The cabinet also includes ten members of the present government.

"The list is rather inconsistent, but the final version will appear after it is officially presented to the Armenian president," Ter-Petrosyan's aide Levon Zurabian told Interfax.

Azerbaijan

Armenians Reportedly Recapture Town

NC0803170494 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziya
Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The Defense Ministry Press Service has reported that the Armenian Armed Forces subjected our Army's positions in Fizulinskiy Rayon to intense artillery shelling as of 0830 yesterday morning. Following the artillery barrage, the enemy launched an attack supported by four tanks and over 100 men and reoccupied the rayon town of Ashagy-Seidakhmedli. After suffering many losses in the fighting, the enemy is bringing in reinforcements to this sector in an effort to press ahead with the offensive. Fierce fighting is continuing in Fizulinskiy Rayon.

At the same time, the Armenians opened artillery fire on our positions in Agdamkiy Rayon.

The Armenian Armed Forces units continued unsuccessful attempts yesterday to capture the Omar Pass in the Murov mountain range. Over 70 enemy troops were killed in this sector in the past two days.

Offensive in Other Areas Reported

LD0803220994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in
Russian 2000 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] After taking a village in Azerbaijan's Fizulinskiy rayon, Armenian armed forces today attempted to continue their attack after sending reinforcements. The press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry, which reported this, said that Armenian sub-units had also stepped up their activity in other areas of Azerbaijan under their control. In particular, Armenian attacks in the area of the strategically important (Amar) crossing in the north of Kelbadzharskiy rayon are being reported.

Aliyev Said To Refuse Endorsing Moscow Agreement

NC0803153694 Istanbul YENI GUNAYDIN in Turkish
5 Mar 94 p 10

[Report by Ridvan Sapmaz]

[Excerpt] Baku—While various organizations are continuing their efforts to find a solution to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, there is absolute uncertainty regarding the cease-fire.

While the [Azerbaijani] Defense Ministry announced that Armenians have been using various weapons to shell Azerbaijani positions for the past three days, high-ranking officials at the Presidential Office are indicating that there is only a verbal agreement on a cease-fire.

It is being suggested that the protocol signed by the Azerbaijani and Armenian defense ministers in Moscow with the mediation of Russian Defense Minister Pavel

Grachev is not being implemented, because it was not approved by President Geydar Aliyev.

An official at the Presidential Office who did not want to be named noted that there is no formal cease-fire agreement with Armenia and that the existing agreement is only a verbal one. The same official added that there can be no cease-fire unless the Armenians withdraw from part of the occupied land. [passage omitted]

Opposes Russian, Favors CSCE Observers

NC0803183494 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish
4 Mar 94 p 4

[Text] While the cease-fire, which went into effect in Azerbaijan yesterday, is mostly being observed, the Azerbaijani Presidential Office has denied reports that Russian troops will supervise the withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the occupied lands.

The presidential press official [state adviser] Gabil Guseynly denied reports to the effect that the Russians will set up 35 control points as Armenians withdraw from lands they occupied in Azerbaijan "outside Karabakh."

Guseynly said: "No agreement to this effect has been signed. Besides, President Aliyev is completely opposed to it. Aliyev insists that if the presence of military observers in the conflict zone is needed, then international observers, including Turkish troops, should be dispatched under CSCE direction."

Recalling that the Armenians should have started withdrawing from the occupied lands in keeping with the cease-fire that went into effect on 1 March, Guseynly indicated that so far no withdrawal has taken place in the region.

In the meantime Jan Eliasson, chairman of CSCE Minsk Group, who is now in Azerbaijan, left for Nagorno-Karabakh's capital Khankendi [Stepanakert] for talks with Armenian officials. He will go later to Yerevan for talks with Armenian government officials.

Aliyev on Ties With PRC, Karabakh Conflict

LD0803182194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in
Russian 1450 GMT 8 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov and Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[Text] Beijing, 8 Mar—The Chinese leadership has reiterated its firm stance that violent alterations of borders and attacks against the territorial integrity of states are inadmissible. This approach is exceptionally important for Baku, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev said in Beijing today.

The visit, which has made it possible to establish good relations at the level of the two countries' top leadership,

has opened up new prospects for the further development of ties between China and Azerbaijan, which is going through a difficult period in its history, he stressed at a news conference. "We attach great significance to this, bearing in mind the important place China occupies in the international economic system and in world politics," the president of Azerbaijan said.

Geydar Aliyev said that the talks with PRC President Jiang Zemin and today's conversation with State Council Premier Li Peng enabled him to talk in detail about the situation in the republic and the region as a whole and, primarily, about the Armenian-Azerbaijani armed conflict.

"Azerbaijan," the president stressed, "does not want a war, is striving for a cessation of hostilities, and wants a settlement of the conflict by peaceful means. However, the unconditional withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and the guarantee of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders are absolute conditions." He linked the possibility of reviewing the status of Nagorno-Karabakh with fulfillment of these conditions.

Replying to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Geydar Aliyev said: "Azerbaijani-Russian relations are normal, good, and friendly. Until recently, there were difficulties between the two countries, mainly because of the stance of the former leadership of Azerbaijan. Since the second half of last year relations have been improving. During my recent meeting in Moscow with President Boris Yeltsin, we agreed on measures to remove obstacles to the development of ties." Touching on the role of the Russian Federation in halting the Karabakh conflict, he noted that Russia has been constantly participating in the settlement process but so far there have been no results. During the recent meeting between the defense ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia in Moscow, an accord was reached on a ceasefire from 1 March and the withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from the territory of Azerbaijan. However, because of the actions of the Armenian side, this has been breached, Geydar Aliyev said.

Tomorrow the president of Azerbaijan flies to Shanghai.

Local Iranian Program Condemns Hebron Incident

NC0903083494 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziyasi
Television Network in Azeri 0930 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Unattributed talk from the "World Last Week" program]

[Excerpts] The Zionists committed a crime in Hebron in the occupied territories early last Friday. The criminal action recalled the Dayr Yasin and Kafr Qasim incidents. They massacred dozens of Palestinians who prayed in a mosque. The incident caused clashes between the Palestinians and the Zionists throughout the occupied territories. The massacre of Palestinians

praying in a mosque in Hebron last week caused a wave of mourning in the Islamic world and infuriated the international community. Some 70 Palestinians were killed and dozens of others were wounded. In an effort to prove that Israel's military forces were not linked with the incident, the Zionist regime described the assailant as mad. But the indications are that the Israeli military forces had a part in realizing the tragic incident. The Hebron incident has exposed the true nature of the Zionist regime and the international community has witnessed that the innocent Palestinian people have again become the victim of a criminal Zionist action. [passage omitted]

The multisided U.S. support for the occupying Zionist regime is an important factor contributing to the inhuman Zionist activities. The U.S. move to obstruct and veto the UN Security Council resolutions against Israel is an indication of the support that that country gives to Israel. Consequently, the two-faced policy maintained by the UN Security Council has created important opportunities for the Zionist regime and allowed it to commit crimes against the Palestinian people. An example is the stance the United States adopted after Hebron. The U.S. approach prevented the UN Security Council from adopting a resolution on the incident. Considering that, the international community must express its indignation over the issue.

The Hebron incident has shown that the sacred Palestinian uprising must be strengthened. It has also revealed that the Palestinians can safeguard their right to live on their own homeland only through an armed struggle.

Coup Story, Front Disclaimer Evoke 'Suspicion'

PM0803153394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
5 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Sokhbet Mamedov: "Prosecutor's Office in Baku Maintains that Coup d'Etat Has Failed"]

[Text] Baku—Around 200 Molotov cocktails, 73 flak jackets, 42 grenade launcher rounds, and a large quantity of other munitions were removed from the basement of the People's Front of Azerbaijan (PFA) headquarters during a search carried out by investigative organs.

Azerbaijan General Prosecutor Ali Omarov has issued a sensational statement: "An attempt to execute an armed coup d'etat planned to take place in the republic on 5 March has been thwarted by investigative organs." According to him, the weapons and munitions seized in the PFA headquarters and in the apartments of certain rayon branch leaders had been assembled for the coup.

The PFA described the Prosecutor's Office actions as a provocation. A statement issued by the PFA asserts that "the PFA has nothing to do with the weapons found." The version of events advanced in the document is that the arms cache was planted in the building by the police.

Both the statement about an imminent coup and the PFA's attempt to dissociate itself from the arsenal in its own building are regarded with suspicion in Baku.

The opposition has used this episode to attack the government. The PFA, the Musavat party, and the Azerbaijan Democratic and Independent Democratic Parties have adopted a joint statement in which they accuse the republic authorities of repressing opposition forces. In their opinion, the authorities are doing this to shift the blame for the relentless deterioration in the economic and military situation onto their opponents' shoulders.

The PFA has been in existence six years. It has headed the democratic movement in the republic. It held power in Azerbaijan from June 1992 through July 1993. However, this period was marked by a host of mistakes in both foreign policy and the economy, caused the Front to disintegrate into various political parties, and hastened the resignation of ex-President Abulfaz Elchibey's team.

When the PFA was in office it had more than 80,000 members; today its ranks have thinned considerably. But even bearing in mind the PFA's sapped authority, it is premature to write it off. Having adopted its principle of organizational building from the Communist Party, the PFA has a ramified network of organizations in all rayons and population centers of the republic. The unchanged chairman of the Front is ex-President Elchibey, who prefers to call it a movement. After his forced resignation he withdrew to his home village of Keleki, in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, and he continues to "lead the Front's activity" from there.

The PFA was and remains a fervent opponent of Azerbaijan's joining the CIS, seeing the Commonwealth as harboring the threat of restoration. For that reason and also because it disagrees with President Geydar Aliyev's course, the Front, in coalition with certain political parties, stands implacably opposed to the current authorities.

As far as weapons are concerned the Front, particularly in the last two years, has had an abundance of them, and it is unlikely they have all been voluntarily handed over to the law-enforcement agencies.

However, this fact can scarcely serve to justify accusing the Front of preparing an armed coup.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Meets With World Bank, IMF Chiefs

LD0903094694 Moscow *ITAR-TASS* in English 0923 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington March 9 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, on an official visit here, on

Tuesday had meetings with World Bank president Lewis Preston and International Monetary Fund managing director Michel Camdessus.

The expansion of cooperation with the world's largest multinational credit-lending and financial organizations in advancing the republic's economy was discussed, Georgian Vice-Premier Irakli Menagarishvili, who took part in the talks, told *ITAR-TASS*.

"The meetings were held in a constructive and warm atmosphere. Shevardnadze assured interlocutors that, notwithstanding all the difficulties connected with military operations and their consequences, Georgia firmly intends to go ahead with the market reform policy.

"Shevardnadze outlined our government's plans in this respect and urged the World Bank and IMF leaders to help the republic resolve the complex economic problems facing it. Support for the Georgian national monetary units was discussed at the talks," Menagarishvili said.

Opposition Acts Against Ratifying CIS Treaty

LD0803193694 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English 1402 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] A session of the Georgian parliament today put off the consideration of 25 issues previously included in the agenda due to its failure to muster a quorum.

On the same day, the opposition distributed a statement among the deputies calling for recognizing the results of the March 1 vote on Georgia's joining the CIS null and void.

On March 1, the parliament ratified the treaty on the republic's joining the CIS by a majority of 121 votes, with 47 votes against and 4 abstentions.

According to the opposition, a two-thirds majority, or 145 votes, rather than a simple majority was required to pass the decision. On the whole, the Georgian parliament includes 220 deputies.

At the same time, opponents to the republic's membership in the CIS agreed to the proposal by Parliamentary Speaker Vakhtang Gogvadze to allow international experts to decide on the legality of the ratification.

Simultaneously, the Social Democratic Party of Georgia which supports joining the CIS called on the opposition to regard this issue of paramount importance for the republic with due understanding.

During the session, deputy Tengiz Sigua pointed to the need to provide an answer to a recent statement by Armenian Foreign Minister Vagan Papazian. In an interview with *NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA*, the Armenian minister did not rule out the possibility of his republic's applying pressure upon Georgia, if goods are not promptly delivered to Armenia from the seaports of

Batumi and Poti. He also demanded an end to acts of sabotage on the railroads and pipelines going through the Georgian territory.

Sigua described the statement as "diplomatic blackmail and policy of intimidation" pointing out that "such a statement by an Armenian official must not be left without an adequate reaction."

Majority Issues Statement on Political Crisis

LD0803172894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The inner political crisis of parliament has assumed such a scale that naturally a point of view is being publicly shaped out on dissolving parliament and holding new parliamentary elections. It could have been considered a solution to the crisis if it were not for one most significant circumstance: Holding such elections would confirm that the Georgian jurisdiction does not

apply to some regions. We believe that dissolving parliament contradicts the interests of Georgia because parliament is the only legitimate body confirming Georgia's unity. Therefore, the parliamentary majority goes out of its way for retaining the executive legislative body of Georgia.

Unfortunately, the parliamentary opposition is behaving in quite an opposite way. Some representatives of the opposition systematically resort to threats, blackmail, and insults which becomes unbearable.

Therefore, the population thinks that parliament must be dissolved. Proceeding from the interests of the country, it is crucial that we find ways for coexistence between the majority and the opposition. Meanwhile, we declare that we shall react lawfully to all instances of insult to personal honor.

[Signed] The council of the parliamentary majority.

[Dated] Tbilisi, 8 March, 1994.

Estonia**President Meri on Baltic, European Union**

WS0803143094 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian
24 Feb 94 No. 37 p 15

[Interview with Estonian President Lennart Meri by Frederikas Jansonas in Tallinn on 23 February: "The Day of Sun, Hope, and Happiness"]

[Excerpts] Today, the Republic of Estonia is celebrating the 76th anniversary of its independence. The flags of neighboring states will fly not only in Tallinn, but also in Vilnius, because it is our common holiday. The Estonian president will make a festive speech this evening. On the eve of this holiday, his Excellency Lennart Meri answered some questions from RESPUBLIKA reporter Frederikas Jansonas. [passage omitted]

[Jansonas] Mr. President, former communists are returning to power in many East European countries. They call this a shift from romanticism to realism. You have never been a member of the Communist Party. Does this mean that you are a romantic?

[Meri] Yes.... I have been fortunate or maybe unfortunate—this is for you to decide—to be a writer. My critics, in Estonia or Finland or Germany, often accuse me of being a romantic (laughs)....

However, this is hardly the reply that you expect to hear from me. Yes, the return of former forces to power is becoming a tendency in Central Europe. (By the way, I have never used the term East Europe because, in my opinion, East Europe is primarily Russia. East Europe is to the east of the borders of Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, and Hungary).

First of all, we should study why such a tendency has emerged.

It is absolutely clear that such foreign secret services of the Russian Federation as the KGB or the Chief Intelligence Administration continue to operate. If they are expanding their activities in the United States, Canada, France, Sweden, or Finland, it would be somewhat naive to think that Lithuania, Latvia, or Estonia would be an exception. It is also evident and commonplace that some Russian political groups are desperately trying, and will continue to try to revive their economic and political influence not only on the Baltic states, but by "step after step" on the entire region which they have become accustomed to call the "Warsaw Pact countries."

On the other hand, we are freeing ourselves of the Soviet economic model, and this is a painful process that must be completed as soon as possible. We can liken the de-Sovietization of the economy to a complicated surgery performed without anesthesia.

Moreover, we cannot forget that after those 50 years, we are like children who just finished secondary school. I remember quite well how I myself felt as a school

graduate—it seemed that I knew everything about the entire world. True, my feelings were quite the opposite when I graduated university. The current authorities of Central European states have acquired their knowledge about democracy and a market economy not through experience, but by reading theoretical books written by outstanding authors who live in Paris and receive their salaries from one of the 200 or so Soviet Union research institutes in the United States.

I do not want to say anything negative about these books. The tragic thing is, however, that they are theoretical and abstract, while we must do something that has never been done in the history of mankind.

Even such classic countries as Germany do not have a market economy that existed in Great Britain during the times of Queen Victoria. Unfortunately, we often overlook such "details," which inevitably causes social problems.

The current problem is whether the price we must pay for the leap from one economic system to another will not become an explosion interrupting this surgery.

The Soviet Union does not exist on geographic maps or in the Soviet Army. However, it does exist, as A. Christie said, in the matter that every one of us has between our temples. [passage omitted]

[Jansonas] The "Partnership for Peace" program has been the political issue of the last two months. It has evoked very different assessments from Central European states. What is your view of this program?

[Meri] I have already mentioned to one reporter that it reminds me of a nice bottle of "Channel" perfume, which seems to be empty, or—and this is even worse—filled with Mr. Molotov's favorite eau de cologne, "Krasnaya Moskva" [Red Moscow].

Nevertheless, this is much better than nothing, although it does not provide any security guarantees. A difficult transitional period is in store for all of us, and we must honestly say this to our nations.

I have never expected anyone to provide us with certain security guarantees before we show that we intend to defend ourselves. One cannot wait for security guarantees as if they were a Christmas gift.

[Jansonas] There have been many different ideas about economic and political cooperation among Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Mr. V. Landsbergis [opposition leader in Lithuania] has even spoken about an Estalia project—something similar to Benelux—on the Baltic Sea. What is your attitude toward the past, the present, and the future of Baltic cooperation?

[Meri] This is one of the key issues for our country. If we cooperate only in searching for security guarantees or foreign policy issues, everything may remain bare rhetoric. We must all understand that in our geopolitical situation we can cooperate in resolving security issues

and foreign policy only on a common economic basis. This is a painful process—Europe wasted more than 30 years before it created the European Union [EU].

I hope that the process of economic integration among the Baltic states will be easier. First of all, we have a tragic historical experience when before World War II our economies competed among themselves rather than cooperated. In my opinion, the second reason is that sometimes it is better to be a small state—in this way we can maneuver better and more promptly.

I explained my position during the very first meetings with Latvian and Lithuanian leaders: We must begin our economic cooperation by integrating our energy systems. Knowing that Finland will face a shortage of energy resources in the coming five years, seeing the industrial potential in eastern Germany, and bearing in mind the fact that Poland depends on gas imports from Russia while the latter's situation is extremely unstable, we have a possibility of creating a basis for the future integration through a gas pipeline running from Norway to eastern Germany through Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland.

We cannot expect to become EU members before we begin our economic cooperation. No one will understand such an attitude in the West, where some people have difficulty in telling the difference between the Balkan and the Baltic states as it is.

As the conclusions of EU experts show, of the three Baltic states, Estonia has made the greatest economic progress toward the EU. However, we do not intend to boast about this. The most important issue is which country will join the EU last, rather than first.

Apart from other positive aspects, the integration of the Baltic energy systems would help us free ourselves from our dependence on Russia. The feeling of independence would allow us to look at Russia in a considerably friendlier manner, because it will always be our neighbor. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister's Policy Address in Sweden

*WS0703133094 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Press Release in English 1945 GMT 6 Mar 94*

[Address by Estonian Foreign Affairs Minister Juri Luik at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs in Stockholm on 2 March]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a pleasure to be able to speak to this distinguished forum on a topic of concern to all of us, namely cooperation and security in the Baltic Sea region. However, we in Estonia believe that security in our corner of the world is integral to European security in a wider sense. We are at the frontier of democratic and free-market thinking prevalent among our closest neighbours, with whom we share a shoreline. At the same time we share a border with a very unstable giant to the east. The well-known Russian democrat

Yuriy Afanasyev expressed his doubts about the giant's future in yesterday's "Herald Tribune" when he wrote that "today, a struggle for power is under way. One order is leaving and the other has yet to arrive. The noise of the times again resounds as it did in 1917".

In this context Sweden's Prime Minister Carl Bildt eloquently expressed the need for added security in this—our—region in his address to this forum last November when he said, and I quote, "It should be obvious that a pattern of development in which all the Nordic countries become part of an emergent European Union [EU], thus making the three Baltic States part of its 'Near Abroad' also in a purely geographic sense, will strengthen security throughout the Baltic and North European area" (end of quote).

I could not agree more, and would go a step further by submitting to you that security in the Baltic Sea region is a prerequisite both for stability and for extended prosperity in the whole of Europe. In making this argument, I will highlight three areas of particular interest: first, our security concerns at home; second, recent domestic and foreign policy developments in Russia; third, the role of the Baltic Sea region in a transforming Europe; and fourth, the ongoing transformation of Western economic, political and security structures.

In Estonia, the highlight of the summer is usually St. John's Eve on the 24 of June, a holiday which the Teutonic Knights borrowed and Christianized but which is actually derived from the pagan celebration of the summer solstice. This year, however, the highlight of the summer is likely to fall on 31 August, when the last occupying soldier is due to leave Estonian soil. We have reason to believe that this will, in fact, happen. Despite Russia's failure thus far to hand over a timetable for the withdrawal of the remaining 2,700 troops, the withdrawal, albeit reluctantly, is continuing, slowly but surely, and people all over Estonia are marking the days remaining on their calendars. I do hope that despite the unreasonable and irrational stance adopted by the Russian delegation at the present round of negotiations Russia will abide by its international commitment to withdraw its troops. When that happy day arrives, we believe our security will be greatly enhanced.

However, even after the last active service soldier and officer has left, we will still have plenty of reason to be vigilant. One primary reason is the presence in Estonia of some 10,000 retired and reserve former Soviet officers who were demobilized before August 20, 1991. This number is roughly five times the size of our own fledgling defense forces, and these persons tend to be generally young and vital men, as they did not retire because they were too old but because they were demobilized with perhaps a prospect of future active duty. We have 50, 40, and even 35 year-old military "pensioners" in Estonia. Some of them served in special units and were trained to "take care" of Swedish leaders should a war break out.

Because we are not assured of their loyalty to Estonia their presence represents a substantial domestic security concern. For this reason, my government has taken a humane but firm stand on the issue. We have made substantial concessions by allowing all those demobilized before the reinstatement of independence in 1991 to apply for residence permits. A special interministerial commission will consider these applications on a case-by-case basis. Needless to say, those who were demobilized after August 1991 will not be permitted to apply for residence permits—otherwise every single uniformed Russian officer in Estonia could take off his uniform and “retire”—without leaving the country. Germany, for instance, would hardly tolerate the continued presence in its eastern part of “retired” former Soviet soldiers.

One other worry as far as domestic security is concerned is our border with Russia. The arguments over whether the 1920 Tartu Peace Treaty remains in force are well known. Russia continues to control territory that, by the terms of that treaty, actually belong to Estonia. Any suggestion by Russia that Estonia is the one claiming territory is patently false and demonstrates a weak understanding both of history and of international law. I will speak later of our hopes for international mediation in this question. In the meantime, however, the Russian Federation has in recent weeks unilaterally begun demarcating the administrative control line that runs between Russia and Estonia, putting up barbed wire fences and stationing sentinels at the line—when nobody really quite knows where this line runs. This we cannot accept. It represents a unilateral action that is in direct violation of the obligations undertaken by CSCE member states that allow for border changes only as a result of bilaterally negotiated solutions. We are asking Russia for an explanation of this action within the CSCE context.

But I wish to speak of purely practical border matters as well. The line running between Estonia and Russia continues to be altogether too porous, allowing the illegal transfer into Estonia, among other goods, of drugs, radioactive metals and weapons, not to mention refugees. These contraband goods and refugees are generally destined for further transport to points West. We are grateful to Sweden for having already helped us beef up our border regime, but clearly much more needs to be done. We especially need to improve coordination between the agencies in Estonia and Sweden that deal with these problems. Because as we all know, supply stems from demand and we have to tackle the demand end as well.

I turn now to my second point, that is developments in Russia, and how this affects our security.

During the last two months, the campaign of accusations and outright threats from Russia has spiralled dramatically. To name just a few, let us remember Russian President Boris Yeltsin's New Year's greeting to his people, in which he said that in the new year, Russia would begin paying special attention to compatriots

living abroad. Then came Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's address to CIS ambassadors in Moscow, implying that the Baltic states were part of the “Near Abroad”, followed by several bellicose statements by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev about how Russia would not withdraw its troops.

On Monday [28 February] evening, on the eve of our current round of talks with Russia, with the Russian delegation already in Tallinn and our own negotiating team driving through the snowy countryside to where the talks would be held, the latest attempt at intimidation was filed with press agencies. This was a Russian Foreign Ministry official's statement that Russia would not keep to the final withdrawal date already agreed upon. The exact wording of this statement was telling. It said, and I quote, that “the allegations that Russia has pledged to withdraw its troops from Estonia before August 31st this year are unfounded” (end of quote). As you can imagine, this latest statement did not help start the current round of talks on a constructive note, not to mention that it represents yet another setback in the withdrawal process. Neither does the continued refusal of Russian officials to acknowledge Estonia's occupation in 1940 help to create an atmosphere of trust between our countries and peoples.

A new Russian Foreign Ministry draft program introduced early last month by Russian Foreign Ministry deputy spokesman Mikhail Demurin may explain some of these actions. This detailed draft program appears to be a comprehensive plan to reinforce Russia's stated primary foreign policy goal of protecting the interests of ethnic Russians abroad. To this end, the draft program foresees the use of various political, economic and socio-cultural means, including import benefits and banking assistance for businesses outside Russia that are run or dominated by ethnic Russians, and the establishment of a powerful broadcasting network to spread Moscow's word. In introducing the program, Demurin told reporters that the plan was devised because, and I quote, “diplomatic measures are not enough” (end of quote).

It seems to us that the draft program has been compiled in a hurry by a number of state agencies and ministries with very differing mandates, because the draft is uneven and, at times, even internally contradictory in its approach. For instance, we all understand that any state has the right and duty to protect the interests of its citizens living abroad, but the Russian Foreign Ministry draft speaks of protecting its ethnic compatriots, not citizens. This policy of differentiating people by ethnicity is a stance which Estonia does not accept as civilized behaviour, but which, paradoxically, is a position that Russian officials often accuse Estonia of assuming.

This represents a danger to Estonia, it represents a danger to Sweden and it represents a danger to Europe. The Baltic Sea region has attained a far greater significance than it had for the past 70 years or indeed since the Hanseatic period. We are again a major trading area, a

vital part of a new Europe. Russia is again an open market, trade is again flowing through the Baltic states to Russia and from Russia to the world. Transit to this great market is of vital importance to us and Estonia as a trading nation wants to do everything in its power to improve on all our economic prospects. The Baltic Sea has the potential of regaining its role as a major free trade area that it occupied during the Hansa.

The Council of Baltic Sea States was called into being to respond to a new need for cooperation in our area and I can tell you that it has proven a great success. Only last week did our region's transport ministers meet in Kaliningrad, with the participation of that vital—overmilitarized—region's officials, to discuss the improvement of transport networks in the Baltic Sea area.

But this new activity again changes our security environment. For trade can only prosper in an atmosphere of mutual trust, of mutual respect. We have to reconcile all our conflicting interests to together become an essential, an integral part of the prosperous European family. For this to happen, however, all European countries have to accept European rules. And that includes Russia.

When the Council of Europe was founded following the Second World War its founders had a vision of a Europe where everyone, great and small, was equal, for only so could a safe future be guaranteed for our continent. We cannot allow for these principles to be discarded now. No country can assume that it has the right to bully others, to force others to do its bidding. President Yeltsin's recent speech in the Russian Parliament is worrying because it does not accept these principles. To quote Yuriy Afanasyev again: "Military pressure has forced Yeltsin to reverse himself on acquiescing to Central and Eastern European countries seeking NATO membership. The new military doctrine of asserting interests in the 'near abroad' is fuelling more blatant attempts to subordinate former Soviet republics...Under the guise of protecting Russian-speaking peoples, Russia is supporting 'national liberation' movements in countries that seek independence. Sometimes the direct participation of Russian troops is camouflaged and presented to the world as a peacekeeping mission in an interethnic conflict."

If we are to allow that kind of behaviour, we will denounce the actions of those that founded the Council of Europe. If we are to allow Russian-style peacekeeping missions we will surely doom many nations and we will jeopardize the great future which our united Europe and our united Baltic Sea region could look towards.

A united Europe, a democratic Europe, ladies and gentlemen, cannot allow any compromises to be made—be they in the requirements for accession to the Council of Europe or in the description of peace-keeping missions with which Sweden has had ample experience. Democracy is democracy is democracy, and no compromises can be made.

However, while we wait and hope for Russian leaders to accept the rules of the Council of Europe we cannot sit idle. In difficult times friends and partners are needed and I would like to mention the strong support we have received in bilateral relations with our closest neighbours in the confused period following Russia's parliamentary elections. Sweden has taken the lead in trying to exert a moderating influence on Russia, at the same time reassuring us that we will not be left alone. This present situation reaffirms the necessity of nation-states and regional leaders acting and adopting responsibilities when global and European structures fail to do so. The Swedish leadership has found the courage to be an active and leading player in the "Baltic game" when multinational organizations have not been brave or focused enough to do so.

This continued support has not been only bilateral in nature, however. Our neighbours have also pushed hard to accelerate our integration into those Western structures that may—provided there is the will—help to counterbalance the crisis in the East. As you know, we have been strong advocates of establishing regional security tables within the CSCE framework, and would like to inject an element of security policy into the activities of the Council of Baltic Sea States.

Further afield, we have signed the Partnership for Peace (PfP) framework document and regard this as a first step toward eventual NATO membership. We are especially interested in advancing the cause of true peacekeeping activities within the PfP context, and to that end are in the process of establishing a joint peacekeeping battalion with our Baltic neighbours. I would take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and the United Kingdom for offering to help train this fledgling battalion while expressing the hope that Sweden and Finland will also join the PfP to strengthen the "Nordic axis" and to move towards an all-European security system.

Another expression of our growing integration with Europe are our ongoing free-trade negotiations with the European Union. We hope to have a free-trade agreement eliminating all trade barriers and tariffs in force on January 1, 1995. And I am very happy to note that the European Council sees us as Associate Members of the Union in the near future. In this connection I would mention that we strongly support and welcome Sweden's membership in the EU. Not only will membership bolster the Swedish economy, but it will further strengthen Stockholm's already strong role in the international arena. We hope to join Sweden as a full member of the European Union at the end of this century.

However, when earlier speaking about the problems international structures face I had one particular process in mind—the European Stability Pact. While the idea conceived by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur has great merit, in the framework of the European Union it has become stagnant. The deliberations around the pact prove that there is not yet very much force behind

the Common Foreign Policy of the Union and I am quite frankly concerned about the effect a failure or non-success of the Pact will have on the image of a strong and united Europe.

Nonetheless, we are determined to do our utmost to help make this undertaking a success, because through this Pact, we hope both to resolve open questions regarding our border with the Russian Federation as well as to give our efforts to integrate aliens into Estonian society a much needed shot in the arm. I do hope, however, that the European Union will accept the nine Central and Eastern European States as true, equal, partners in this undertaking, for only so can we—together—achieve success.

I would wrap up this final point by stating the obvious. Much has changed in the international security environment since my prime minister spoke at this forum one year and 11 days ago, but some things remain the same. Last year, Prime Minister Mart Laar told you, and I quote, that "It is imperative to realize that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania cannot be abandoned, not only for their own sake, but for the precedent that deserting our countries would set. We are willing to help in the struggle for democracy; we hope that you will be willing to help us too" (end of quote).

Ladies and Gentlemen: I would conclude my remarks today with a maxim set down in the first century B.C. by Greek philosopher Publius Syrus, who said (and I quote) that "anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm" (end of quote). My friends, the Baltic Sea is a relatively shallow body of water, and this shallowness can lend a deceptive sense of safety. As any sailor knows, however, storms have a greater effect in shallow than in deep waters. We live in politically tempestuous times; the sea is not yet calm. But I remain convinced that with continued and increased cooperation, with a little diplomatic skill and a touch of luck, we can together hold the helm even in troubled waters and safely reach shore.

Thank you.

Archivist Questions Fate of Missing KGB Files
WS0803154694 Riga THE BALTIC OBSERVER in
English 3 Mar 94

[Article by Merike Jurjo and Karin Roossaar: "The Case of the Missing KGB Files"]

[Text] Whatever happened to the prolific files kept by the Estonian KGB during fifty years of Soviet rule? That's what Estonian political parties archive chief Valdur Ohmann would like to know. Ohmann says the Estonian parties' archive houses close to 60,000 of the remaining records: less than a quarter of the estimated total, he says.

The files in the archive attest to Stalinist repressions: the mass deportations of Estonian citizens in 1941 and 1949, the persecution of clergy, and charges against

people involved in Estonia's pre-Soviet government. More recent files consist primarily of criminal records and "tourism" records, which trace every person who traveled abroad.

Administrative records, including correspondence, accounts, and personnel files are missing, Ohmann says.

The KGB files' disappearance may be traced back to the dramatic events of August 1991, when the Estonian Kodukaitse (home guard), took control of the KGB building at Pagari Street in Tallinn. Hardo Aasmaa, Tallinn's major at the time, personally sealed the door to the KGB archives. Witnesses remember seeing clouds of smoke over the KGB building and heard rumors that trucks loaded with documents were pulling out from behind the building.

Soon after, the government rebuffed the archive department's attempt to join a commission created to take over the KGB documents.

In October 1991, the archive building was opened and the records handed over to the police department, essentially to the body that cooperated with the KGB.

By giving the KGB files to the police, "former Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar's government violated its own rules," says Peep Pillak, state archive department director. A law passed August 16, 1990 states that the archives of all liquidated organizations must be transferred to the archive department.

"Or was the police department considered the legal successor to the KGB?" Pillak asks.

A year-and-a-half passed before Prime Minister Mart Laar ordered the police department on April 19, 1993 to transfer immediately the KGB records to the archive department. The records now occupy the archive for Estonian Political Parties, formerly the Estonian Communist Party archives.

The so-called Savisaar-Bakatin agreement, made at the end of 1991, promised the return to Estonia of all KGB records that had been carried to Russia. On December 4, 1991, 500 kilos of the estimated 5 tons of records were returned, Estonian news agency ETA reported.

The KGB also housed records in other Estonian towns, but the archive department has not received them, Pillak comments.

Pillak suspects that part of the KGB archives were destroyed or hidden during the year-and-a-half before Laar ordered the records to go to the archive department. The rest may still be in Russia, he says.

Latvia

Note Sent to U.S. State Department on Remarks

LD0803181494 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1700 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Latvian Ambassador to the United States Ojars Kalnins presented a note to the U.S. State Department asking for a clarification of statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher relating to Latvia, made by Warren Christopher to a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate at the beginning of the month. The note says Latvia is perplexed by what was said by the head of the U.S. State Department, that almost a million Russian speakers in Latvia are deprived of the right to vote. The Foreign Ministry recalls that 278,000 out of 722,000 ethnic Russians living in Latvia are citizens of the Republic of Latvia.

It is noted that Warren Christopher accepted Russia's right to provoke Latvians to extend the circle of citizens and grant the voting right to Russians who want to live in Latvia. The Latvian Foreign Ministry is worried that Russians will interpret these remarks as acceptance of the effort to (?fix) Latvia's citizenship and naturalization policy. The document emphasized that the Foreign Ministry wants to clarify Warren Christopher's comments on the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia and the Skrunda radar base. The U.S. Secretary of State (?had twice noted) the necessity of preserving the Russian troops at Skrunda, while hitherto Latvia has been convinced that the U.S. supports its efforts to demilitarize the Skrunda site. The remarks by the Secretary of State make one think the opposite.

The Foreign Ministry urges a meeting of diplomatic representatives of Latvia and the USA to clarify their stances on the issues referred to, and to avert any possible misunderstandings.

Birkavs News Conference on Nordic Council Viewed

LD0803202894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1400 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] [Announcer] Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs returned from Sweden and held a news conference immediately afterwards. Regarding what was said, go ahead, Guntis [Scerbinskis]:

[Scerbinskis] Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs reported on his visit. In Stockholm he had several important meetings. The first one that must be mentioned is the meeting with the prime ministers of the five Nordic countries, and here the main thing to note is that a new stable element is entering Europe, the five plus three. That is, the five Nordic countries plus the three Baltic countries.

The Nordic prime ministers expressed support for the quick, orderly, and complete withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia. Support was also expressed for Latvia's constructive position on the Skrunda issue, and

the wording was that it is a significant investment by Latvia in the security of all of Northern Europe. The Nordic prime ministers likewise expressed support for Latvia's efforts to enter the European Union, and evidently there will be a speeding up of the signing of treaties, in the two trade treaties with the European Union.

What should also be mentioned is the meeting at a bipartite level with Sweden. What was discussed here were the issues of ports, an agricultural protocol, as well as the Baltic peacekeeping battalion possibly being trained in Sweden. Besides that, an interesting offer was made concerning weapons, and the Swedes are offering to locate arms manufacturing in Latvia. But (?that is still a job) for military experts. The third point that must be mentioned was a meeting between the prime ministers of the three Baltic countries. Here the main points that must be mentioned were consultations with Estonia about retired military personnel. It was also decided that Estonia is to prepare conditions for a competition for (?demarcating) the border for all the Baltic lands, since Estonia has gone furthest in this work.

[Announcer] So, Guntis Scerbinskis outlined the news conference held today by Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs upon his return from Sweden.

EU Welcomes 'Progress' in Skrunda Talks

WS0703123494 Tallinn BNS in English 1659 GMT
5 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 05, BNS—The European Union [EU] in a statement welcomed progress in the talks between Latvia and Russia on the Skrunda radar base, the DIENA daily newspaper reported with reference to the Latvian Embassy in Brussels.

The agreement foresees the radar base at Skrunda, Latvia, to operate under Russian command during the next 4 years and to be then dismantled within 18 months.

The EU in the statement says that the temporary agreement on the Skrunda base will contribute to progress in Latvian-Russian talks on the withdrawal of Russian troops. The EU regards the agreement as containing no threat to Latvia's sovereignty, and calls for approval of the document.

The good will demonstrated during the talks gives hope that good-neighborly relations will be established between Latvia and Russia, the EU statement says.

Faction Urges Curb on Ostankino TV Programs

WS0803160994 Riga LETA in English 1237 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] The Latvia's National Independence Movement (LNNK) faction proposed to cease broadcasting of some of the "Ostankino" programmes. The newspaper NEAT-KARIGA CINA reported. The programme "Sunday"

was mentioned as one of the reasons for such a proposal, which said that the books distributed in Latvia as text-books express approval of how the Jews issue was solved during the World War Two. The faction proposed to conclude a new agreement with the "Ostankino" company on broadcasting only some of their programmes in Latvia.

Birkavs Deems Russian Gas Prices 'Too High'

WS0703124894 Tallinn BNS in English 1316 GMT
5 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 05, BNS—Latvia considers Russian gas export concern GAZPROM prices for gas, 80 U.S. dollars for 1000 cubic meters, to be too high, Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs informed Friday [4 March] GAZPROM board's Deputy Chairman Valeriy Remizov and Director General Pjotr Rodionov.

The representatives of GAZPROM arrived Friday in Riga to sign a new contract with Latvia for year 1994.

Latvia considers the price for gas should be smaller because Russia uses Incukalns underground gas repository.

In return Russia demands that Latvia did payments for gas beforehand.

BNS already reported that GAZPROM breached February 11, 1993 a contract on gas supply with the three Baltic states and GAZPROM branch company LENTRANGAZ.

During the meeting the representatives of GAZPROM named Latvia's 23 million U.S. dollars debt to the organization and necessity to centralize all payments to be the main reasons for the breaching of contract.

Birkavs informed that Latvian Government has given permission to use Japanese export-import bank's loan (which is part of G-24 credit given to Latvia) for paying back the debt.

Lithuanian state enterprise LIETUVAS GAZE signed Thursday agreement on cooperation with GAZPROM. According to the agreement, Lithuania will receive 2.7 billion cubic meters of natural gas paying 75 U.S. dollars for one thousand cubic meters of gas.

Agreement Reached on Gas Supplies to Baltics

LD0503131794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0225 GMT 5 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga, 5 Mar—An agreement on this year's gas supplies was reached between Latvia and the Russian Gazprom today. Their volume will remain on the same level and the price for 1,000 cubic meters will be \$78, which is more than Lithuania and Estonia will be paying. Moscow representatives also visited Estonia this week.

According to Adrians Davis, the general director of Latvian Gaze, the neighbors received a price reduction because of the fact that Estonia has set up a joint venture with Lentrangaz, in which the Russian partner has more than 30 percent of shares was taken into account.

Lithuania is also preparing for a similar step. Latvia, for the time being, is contemplating whether it should share property.

At the same time Davis said that compared with other countries Latvia was regarded as a relatively safe customer. It will pay off its debt of \$23 million by next week. There is also a government decision to grant funds using the credit from the Japanese Export-Import Bank.

In the opinion of the general director of Latvian Gaze, the talks were successful. He particularly mentioned the prospects for signing a long-term treaty for 10-15 years, which was extremely important for Latvia.

'Growing' Trade in Radioactive Metals Detailed

WS0803093094 Riga DIENA in Latvian 24 Feb 94 p 3

[Article by Janis Domburs: "The Black Market in Radioactive Material is Expanding"]

[Excerpts] There is no evidence either to prove or disprove reports that caesium and rubid purchased by Rimmel and Eichler [not further identified] were brought to Latvia before being transported to Cloten airport in Switzerland. Nonetheless, before this event even occurred, police and special services in West Europe had begun to pay attention to the fact that following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the trade in contraband radioactive material from the East has grown considerably. Latvia has no choice—it is situated directly between the global powers of East and West. Is it inevitable that it should become a transit corridor for such contraband?

"Last year, even INTERPOL became anxious over the trade in radioactive metals; principally, Germany. Now reunited with East Germany, the Germans are evidently aware, better than anyone else, that these materials were available to the special services which were linked throughout East Europe. And these relations are still vivid...." this is how Juris Jasinkevics, head of Latvia's national bureau of the international police organization INTERPOL, sums up the situation. Thus far, his bureau has not been tasked by his colleagues in other countries to investigate possible trade in radioactive metals here in Latvia. Over the last half a year, only one concrete case has been uncovered. The inquiry, which came from Germany, was connected with a car which was stopped at the German-Polish border while trying to return after delivering a load of so-called colored metals to Germany; border police detected radioactive traces in the car. In this case, the only link to Latvia was the fact that the car turned out to be the property of a Latvian company. In the export of these so-called colored metals,

Latvia had been the transit country—the load was delivered from Russia through Belarus. The reason for the radioactive traces remains unexplained, because German police had not been able to find where the load had been delivered.

The fact that a special working group on trade in radioactive metals was established by the Ministry of Home Affairs in January, is evidence that the significance of the problem is actually growing. INTERPOL has organized two international conferences on criminal activity linked with environmental pollution and illegal trade in radioactive material. Copies of the reports are in the possession of the Latvian bureau and they reveal that at the last such meeting held in Lyons in September, it was the German representative who expressed extreme anxiety over the sharp increase in the number of such crimes in Germany. At the same time, he drew attention to the fact that in cases where the presence of radioactive elements was suspected, radioactivity was actually detected in relatively few instances (in 1992—18 out of 158 inspections). He stated that material often toted as radioactive, is in being sold by taking advantage of prospect buyer's credulity. Among every case when radioactivity was actually detected, there has not been a single case of material being discovered which could be used in the production of nuclear weapons, which is the most dreaded scenario. In reports delivered at INTERPOL conferences, "Red Mercury," as an example, is most often mentioned. As DIENA has already reported, citing German press reports, this was the material Johann Rimmele supposedly had been planning to buy in China. There are different opinions concerning its usage. INTERPOL experts are of the opinion that "Red Mercury" is a material which can be used as an element in making detonators for plutonium-based bombs. The German and Dutch representatives at INTERPOL directed attention toward Russia as a source of the trade in dangerous materials. The Dutch representative emphasized the participation of former Red Army officers—it is understood that they are cheating, by selling relatively useless goods as strategic material. [passage omitted]

Dzintars Kalnins is the head engineer of the Center for Nuclear Research at the Latvian Academy of Science in Salaspils—an institution where Latvia's most highly qualified specialists in this field are working. Therefore, the explanations and comments of Dz. Kalnins can evidently be treated as the opinion of a Latvian expert.

First of all, it should be stated precisely that the valuable materials involved in the famous Lake Constance episode were not simply rare metals, but enriched isotopes. They are made by growing them in a crystal reticle. Isotopes are applied in precise technologies, in radio electronics, computer techniques, etc., where the respective isotopes—perfect, precise atom crystals—are necessary. In Latvia, such isotopes are not being manufactured, due to lack of necessary equipment. As Mr. Kalnins told us, the institutes which possess the special equipment needed to enrich these elements are situated

near Moscow. "These institutes are practically under military management—so it was during the time of the Soviet Union, and so it is now, that in the field of exact sciences, at least in this branch, the military line is being developed in the first order"—he said. [passage omitted]

To the question of what amount of rare metal contraband there is in Latvia and if there are inspection facilities to detect radioactive material at the border, the answer of the expert was skeptical—he allows for the fact that customs officers, for the sake of financial benefit or due to a lack of knowledge, often "turn a blind eye." Also, they do not have adequate equipment to detect radioactive shipments. Naturally, at the airport any isotope—radioactive or otherwise—would be discovered by a common detector, since it is a metal. Nevertheless, the situation in radioactive control is hopeful—at the Center for Nuclear Research there is a laboratory being established, where the certification and attestation of radioactivity detecting devices will be possible. There are also plans to organize training for customs officers and border guards in this laboratory. Judging by what Dz. Kalnins said, customs officers and border guards are not the only ones having problems: Recently, some kind of "mafiosi" called me and, not revealing their names, offered me a great amount of money to check the radioactivity of some metal in their possession. I replied that I do not make deals with anonymous people...

A rhetorical question could be put as to whether it would not be in Russia's interests if there were strict controls over the export of isotopes?

"Of course, and I am sure they would do it gladly, but I suppose that the Mafia has grabbed it in her hands"—answered Dzintars Kalnins.

To be continued...

Baltic Information Agency Set Up

LD0503115094 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1000 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] At the Writers Union today, the Baltic Information Agency is being set up. The agency is being created as an open public foundation in accordance with the law of the Republic of Latvia on the regulations for public organizations and associations. The purpose of this foundation is to spread information about the Republic of Latvia, the activities of its government and non-government organizations, to inform the public about current events in Latvia and the world. It is being created as a non-government institution. It is not bound by government directives. In other words it will not express only and solely the official viewpoint of the government.

Bank Chairman Views 1993 Performance

WS0803093894 Tallinn BNS in English 2007 GMT
7 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 07, BNS—The Latvian National Bank plans to keep its eyes peeled on the money supply to

avert price hike and cut inflation to 10 percent in 1994, the bank's President Einars Repse said Saturday [5 March].

In 1993, the inflation ran a comparatively low 34.9 percent, Repse told the economic development seminar at the Economics Ministry. In Estonia, prices increased 35 percent, in Lithuania 288 percent, in Russia 1,000 percent and in Belarus 1,060 percent.

Only some of East European countries, like the Czech Republic (18 percent) and Slovakia (23 percent), reported lower inflation rate than Latvia last year, Repse said.

The Bank of Latvia's main short-term goals are stabilizing of prices and currency, and raising credibility in the national currency, the lat, said Repse.

Latvia managed to stop the decline in its gross domestic product in 1993, Repse noted.

The central bank is aware of the negative impact of the national currency revaluation on the export opportunities, said Repse. It preserved a stable currency market by preventing sharp increase and fluctuations in the lat rate.

The measures helped the Baltic country to lead its foreign trade balance back in the black, Repse said.

On the other hand, Repse conceded that the economy reacts inflexibly to changes in currency rates. The chances of market relations are not fully used in Latvia yet, he added.

Commenting on the influx of convertible currencies into Latvia, Repse said that the acquired reserves would allow to avoid sharp fluctuations in the lat rate and grant some safety to the national currency in the future.

Lithuania

Presidents Sign Friendship, Cooperation Treaty

AU0803142294 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Today at the Palace of Parliament and Presidency in Vilnius, Presidents Algirdas Brazauskas and Ion Iliescu signed the friendship and cooperation treaty concluded between Lithuania and Romania. The accord on the mutual promotion and protection of investments, the protocol concluded between the Governments of Lithuania and Romania on the delivery of goods, services, and payments over 1994, and the protocol on the cessation of the validity of the Romanian-Lithuanian commercial accord signed in 1931 were also signed.

The signing of the documents was followed by a press conference, during which Presidents Algirdas Brazauskas and Ion Iliescu emphasized the significance of having signed those important documents, considering the similarities of various aspects in the domestic and international policies of Romania and Lithuania. There

are enormous possibilities of cooperation both with respect to the establishment of market economies and the two countries' activity within European bodies, the Lithuanian president said. Upon turn, President Ion Iliescu stressed that the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty between Romania and Lithuania, as well as that of the other economic accords express the political will to strengthen the ties between the two countries. Romania and Lithuania are proceeding together on the way of democratization and integration within united Europe, Romania's president added.

After that ceremony, the last point on the agenda was the visit paid by President Ion Iliescu to the Vilnius University, where he attended a meeting with the students and the teaching personnel of the university and delivered a speech, our special correspondents, Raluca Dana Cotruta and Simina Botar, report.

Hold News Conference

LD0803161594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0905 GMT 8 Mar 94

[News conference by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and Romanian President Ion Iliescu in the Lithuanian Seimas in Vilnius—live; Brazauskas speaks in Lithuanian, with passage by passage translation into English; Iliescu speaks in English; correspondents speak in Lithuanian, Romanian, and English, with all questions translated into English—processed from the English]

[Brazauskas] Our two countries today represented by the President and members of cabinet have signed a number of bilateral and very significant agreements. First of all I would like to single out the political treaty on friendship and cooperation between Lithuania and Romania.

Romania was one of the first countries to recognize the newly restored independence of Lithuania. [Word indistinct] the second half of this century has been quite alike. Since the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in 1939 we underwent similar fate—Lithuania was occupied and Romania lost Bessarabia. We all entered the period of (?the fear of) Socialism or, shall I say, the fear of influence of Stalinist oppression.

Now under the conditions of free development there are again similarities in our way: both of our countries have become members of the Council of Europe and both of our countries have already signed the Partnership for Peace agreement with NATO.

Further steps in our development are also quite similar—Romania is already an associated member of the European Union while Lithuania is hoping to achieve this status perhaps this year. The possibilities for our cooperation in all spheres are huge too, because both of our countries are trying to consolidate the steps towards free market economy and towards the development of really democratic society.

Extending my gratitude to His Excellency President Iliescu and his delegation for visiting Lithuania I would like to wish the Romanian President and all the Romanian people all the best success and to achieve all the goals that they had set for themselves.

[Unidentified moderator] Now, His Excellency Ion Iliescu, the Romanian president.

[Iliescu] Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, I should like to express our thanks for the climate of friendship and for very good conditions of our visit, of our talks.

I should firstly underline the political significance of our visit. It is the first visit of a chief of state of Romania in the new, independent Lithuania. And therefore the signature of the political document, the treaty of [word indistinct] cooperation between our two states, and some economic agreements are an expression of our goodwill, of our political determination to strengthen and to develop our relations. (? At least could we see) even today, by visiting the [word indistinct], the history of our two countries has a lot of similarities. It is a history of the people which has fought during their history to preserve their independence, their sovereignty, their cultures, and now we are fighting to consolidate our new achievements on the way of democratization, of the strengthening of a state ruled by the law and to promote the very difficult process of transition from a state, a centralized system of economy to a market, efficient economy.

We (?are considering in) this very concentrated program of our visit and of our discussions a lot of problems, preoccupations, difficulties which we are passing through and I think the exchange of experience, the better knowledge of each other will be a very good contribution to strengthen our ties and to develop our common experience in this very difficult way of contemporary history of our countries and [words indistinct].

We are both preoccupied to promote the integration of our countries in a new Europe, in a new, united Europe, to liquidate any remnants of the separation of our continent into (?walls) separated by the military means, by the political, ideological barriers and now by economic barriers which are much more visible. And we have to make a large effort to promote this new climate on the continent. As President Brazauskas underlined, we are going together on this way and I think we shall do it with success. We wanted to express our sympathy, our solidarity with the Lithuanian people and hope you the best in your efforts and in your national (?development).

[Unidentified correspondent from Romanian Radio] As it is Women's Day, I would like to ask both His Excellency the President of Lithuania and his excellency the president of Romania to allow Romanian Radio to ask two questions.

One of the topics of yesterday's talks was the question of minorities and relationships with neighboring countries. What is your specific point of view on this topic?

[Brazauskas] Indeed, we did talk about the issues of national minorities and relations with neighboring countries with His Excellency President Iliescu and we found out that our opinions on these issues were similar and, I would say, even coincided, because the establishment of friendly relations with neighboring countries is one of the chief goals of our foreign relations policy. We hope to sign in the nearest future friendship and cooperation agreements with Belarus and Poland.

As to ethnic minorities, I must say that ethnic minorities in Lithuania enjoy all the privileges and rights which are stipulated by our constitution and our laws and which are also stipulated by international documents on these matters. Lithuania is a member of the Council of Europe and it abides to all the stipulations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

[Iliescu] First of all for the women, I should like to express our congratulations and best wishes to all the women present in this hall with the occasion of Women's Day.

Secondly, in connection with the problem raised with (?satisfied discussion), as President Brazauskas said, I should underline two aspects of the problem because all our countries, and I think in all Europe, there does not exist any country which should not have national, ethnical minorities on their territory. Also, there is not any country which should not have their core nationals living on the territory of other states. In this connection there are also problems connected with the neighbor problems and historical problems which thus exist between neighbor countries in connection with this coexistence of the co-citizens or of the co-nationals living on the territory of the other country.

Of course, the problem of the national minorities and national and ethnical minorities is a question of the internal development of each country and only on the democratic basis, with the creation of the general frame of the individual liberties and the right of every member of the society, only in this frame the problems of the citizens belonging to different national minorities can be solved. And I think that with the democratic development of our country, with the new constitution which has the most important chapter connected to the rights and the liberties of the citizens, we have created the juridical base to solve any problems for any citizen of the country, including those belonging to national minorities.

Of course, there are some general international, European [word indistinct] concerning the civil rights, which are including also the rights for the persons belonging to the national minorities. And we have such a provision in our constitution that any international juridical provision is (?prevalent) to any of our national juridical provision concerning the rights and liberties of the citizen. So we are ready always to align ourselves to any international regulations, provisions, agreements on the international level, including European level.

But, of course, there is some conditions which is creating normal or un-normal relations between neighboring countries. When some state, or leader of one state, is proclaiming their right to intervene in the regulation of the activities of the representative organizations of some national minorities on the territory of other countries, it is already a source of tension between the states. Or some proclamation (?in the last period) for the so-called territorial, ethnical self-determination, it is also a principle which is not in accordance with the general international and European [word indistinct] of the development of the trust between nations and between states. It's a sort of theory of bantustanization of some such local community. I think not on this basis the rights and the liberties of the national minorities could be provided, but in accordance with legislation which does exist in every country and with a general democratic rule of the relations between the citizens of each country.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President Brazauskas, Mr. President Iliescu: Can you point out, please, the ways in which the two countries are planning to contribute to the maintenance and strengthening of the stability, security and peace on our continent? Thank you.

[Brazauskas] I would like to say that our active participation in the Partnership for Peace system shows that our countries are looking for strong and guaranteed security systems, such as we see in the activities of NATO, for example. I also hope that other countries will be signing the Partnership for Peace agreement and this will provide a very good security basis for Central and Eastern European countries. I would like to express a hope that Russia, too, signs this agreement, then the question itself of dividing Europe into military or some other kind of bloc will no longer be existing at all.

[Iliescu] I think there are two elements for the (?general stability). There is from the one side the internal stability of every country, and we are making all the efforts to stabilize politically and economically our country to become a factor of stability in our geographical zone and on the continent. Secondly, there are the activities of external relations, firstly the good relations with our neighbors, our contribution by bilateral contacts and multilateral contacts to eliminate the sources of conflict and tension which exist in our zone. And Romania has (?this privilege) to live in such a zone with two big sources of tensions and open conflict—Yugoslavia from one side and the former Soviet Union, with different sources of tension and conflict, from the other side.

We are making all efforts, with our modest possibilities, to contribute to this activity, international activity, to eliminate these sources of the conflict. And also our participation in the international body, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which can (?become) such a general frame for the stabilization and security on the continent. Our participation in the Partnership for Peace and our connection with NATO, with European Council, with European institutions—all this

frame of our external activities are interconnected with the preoccupation to secure more stability and security on the continent.

[Moderator] The last question is from Baltic News Service Agency.

[Unidentified correspondent] There were two questions, the first one to both of the presidents: can we draw from the meetings that you have had that there is a possibility of a Baltic and Black Sea union? And the second question was to Mr. Brazauskas, about the possibility of a new trend in Lithuanian foreign policy towards the Black Sea countries.

[Brazauskas] Of course, Romania is on the Black Sea and Lithuania is on the Baltic Sea and we can and must use to the best advantage our geographical situation in order to promote economic and trade relations. As to the second question, I must say that Lithuania has been using every possibility to establish and to improve relations with all states, first of all with neighboring states and also with states that are further away. With Romania we have many similarities in our domestic life and in our outside activities and the signing of the important documents today expands the sphere of our relations and leads us to better links with countries of the Black Sea basin.

[Iliescu] I think that any initiative, [words indistinct] to promote the cooperation between the two states and to promote such zones of stability and security on our continent. From this point of view, the development of initiatives of the Baltic Sea from one side and the Black Sea from the other side are such initiatives which have such an objective—to promote stability in our region, to promote the cooperation between our states.

Of course, I cannot speak about the union of two zones. We should develop firstly such cooperation in our zone, but such interconnections are of course beneficial and our presence here is an expression of our desire to develop such interconnections. More, I could say. We have visited in the morning the Trakai [town near Vilnius, ancient residence of Lithuanian rulers]. On our perception, "Trakai" is coming from the nomination of a great family of people of Asian civilization, the (?Thracians). Our ancestors, that was the Prince of (?Thrace). If the (?Thracians) could develop such a zone of interconnection and coexistence from Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea with the Baltic Sea, why could it not be able for our generation to develop such and interconnection and such a cooperation? I think it is quite realistic to speak about.

Chance To Expand Black Sea Ties Seen

WS0803195294 Tallinn BNS in English 1712 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 08, BNS—The Lithuanian-Romanian political treaty indicates the significance of the first visit to Lithuania by a Romanian leader after the

restoration of Lithuanian independence, Romanian President Ion Iliescu said at a press conference after the accord was signed in Vilnius Tuesday [8 March].

The agreement on friendship and cooperation was signed by Iliescu and Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas. Agreements on investment protection and promotion, and commercial cooperation in 1994 were signed by Lithuanian Industry and Trade Minister Kazimieras Klimasauskas and Romanian Trade Minister Cristian Ionescu.

"The signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty with Romania expands Lithuania's relations with Black sea countries," the Lithuanian president said.

In his words, Lithuania uses every opportunity to improve its ties with both "next-door" and more distant neighbors. Lithuania and Romania should make use of their geographical location to strengthen economic and commercial relations, he said.

Iliescu said Romania welcomes every initiative that enhances security and stability. The Romanian leader said a positive thing is that security zones are created around both the Baltic and the Black sea, but it is "hard to speak" about a union of these zones.

Both presidents said their countries pay much attention to safeguarding security. Brazauskas pointed out that both countries signed up for NATO's Partnership for Peace program. The Lithuanian president expressed hope that Russia will join the program in the near future. "The problem of creating blocs in Europe would then disappear," he said.

In Iliescu's words, Lithuania and Romania seek to join different European and international cooperation structures, and "this should not be hindered by any economic or political barriers."

Commenting on the commercial cooperation agreement, Minister Klimasauskas said it is very democratic, allowing to choose goods and to set prices without any restrictions.

The Romanian delegation completes its two-day visit to Lithuania Tuesday. Before departure, Iliescu will visit Vilnius University.

Danish Minister Arrives on Official Visit

LD0903113694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Danish Defense Minister Hans Haerkerup arrived in Lithuania on an official visit today.

The Danish delegation will meet President Algirdas Brazauskas; Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jurisnas; members of the Seimas National Security Committee; National Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius; officials from the Ministry of National Defense; and representatives from the Voluntary Defense Service.

The guests will also visit the port of Klaipeda where they will inspect the flotilla of the Lithuanian marine force. The main sphere of cooperation between the Lithuanian and Danish military structures is the training of officers of this country. Another sphere is partnership for peace. Denmark will help the Baltic states to set up peacekeeping military units. They are already introducing their methodology and giving assistance for the training of servicemen. It is thought that the first Lithuanian peacekeeping unit will leave for former Yugoslavia, together with the Danish battalion.

Experts from Denmark are expected to arrive at the end of March. They will assess the Alytus military base where the joint peacekeeping unit of the Baltic states is to be trained.

A treaty will be signed by the Danish and Lithuanian defense ministers during the visit. This will reinforce further the links between the two state institutions.

President Assesses First Year in Office

WS0803081294 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 25 Feb 94 No. 38 p 2

[Interview with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas by Ruta Grineviciute in Vilnius on 24 February: "A. Brazauskas: I Seek Concord and a Better Life for Lithuanian People"]

[Excerpts] Exactly one year ago, on 25 February 1993, A. Brazauskas became Lithuania's fourth president after taking the oath of office at the Seimas [parliament]. On the eve of his first anniversary in office, A. Brazauskas answered several questions from RESPUBLIKA reporter R. Grineviciute.

[Grineviciute] When taking the oath as president, you stated that you would be just to everyone. Is it easy to fulfill this promise?

[Brazauskas] It is not easy, but I am trying to do my best. I think that I have freed myself from the influence of different political forces over this year. I cannot claim, however, that someone used to exert particular influence over me earlier.

[Grineviciute] According to the Constitution, you will "outlive" the current Seimas by two years. Do you expect to have support from the parliamentary majority after the next Seimas elections?

[Brazauskas] The Seimas might "outlive" me. If people follow the same logic in the next elections, the Seimas will remain moderate. I believe that there will be no such surprises as in October 1992 (when the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party won a majority—R.G.).

[Grineviciute] You claim that you have freed yourself from political influences. Have there been any decisions causing protests from the Seimas majority over that time?

[Brazauskas] There have been no such reprimands. However, there have been some misunderstandings, because I did not sign several laws adopted by the Seimas majority.

[Grineviciute] You mentioned in your annual report that you did not see any qualitative changes among officials. Meanwhile, the prime minister has repeatedly said that he will not conduct reform in the state management. How do you intend to resolve this conflict?

[Brazauskas] We maintain that we must preserve stable government institutions in terms of their organization. However, the problem is their contents—officials. We have inherited the current conditions, and we have not yet defined an official's status. However, the Seimas will resolve this issue and legalize officials in the better sense of this word by adopting a relevant law in March.

[Grineviciute] How can corruption be "treated?"

[Brazauskas] If such a cure existed, the entire world would be free of corruption. This is a common misfortune of all government officials. I have repeatedly said that cases of corruption must be assessed at courts. I have never defended and will not defend a single official who abuses his position.

[Grineviciute] What is your key goal as president? What will allow you to say—"My presence was not fruitless?"

[Brazauskas] I dream about normal relations among the Lithuanian people. The last year shows that they can be achieved. Neither I nor the government or the Seimas increase tension. As long as I am here, I will try to prevent people's artificial opposition.

Another of my goals is a better life for the Lithuanian people. We can speak about the absence of a concept, but all our efforts must be directed at this. [passage omitted]

[Grineviciute] How do you assess the now concluding negotiations on the treaty with Poland?

[Brazauskas] Since I have participated in drafting the treaty over the past six months, I claim that the desire of both sides to find an acceptable solution has prevailed.

Paper on Gyls' Mild Stand on Russian Transit

WS0803155994 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian
25 Feb 94 No. 38 p 4

[Article by Audrius Baciulis: "Diplomatic Masterpieces"]

[Text] The press used to report extensively on our Foreign Minister P. Gyls' diplomatic "skills" at one time. He did not escape the attention of the Seimas [parliament] as well. Although the minister remained in office, he stated arrogantly as usual that the operation "fall" [opposition's no-confidence vote] directed against him had failed, and that he had to withdraw from active political life. Judging by certain signs, the key workload

has been transferred to Deputy Minister A. Januska, while the minister has confined himself to protocol visits. (For example, he is planning to go to a conference of European Union associate members, although it is not yet clear what he intends to do there—probably, to show himself and look at others.)

However, only the minister himself can perform certain diplomatic functions. For example, to convey a protest to an ambassador of a neighboring country, particularly if one of its trains, loaded with enough armored vehicles to accommodate a battalion, crosses the Lithuanian border. Not only did Russia fail to inform anyone of such a military transit, but the vehicles (this time empty) were accompanied by armed Russian soldiers.

Under normal diplomatic circumstances such actions are called armed provocations. Upon learning such facts, the government immediately summons the ambassador of the provoking state to the Foreign Ministry and expresses a harsh protest, regardless of the time of day or night.

How did the Lithuanian foreign minister behave under such circumstances? The train with armored vehicles crossed the Lithuanian border on Saturday [19 February]. The Foreign Ministry managed to summon the Russian ambassador only on Tuesday. Instead of expressing a harsh protest, P. Gyls requested (!) that Russia observe the rules of transit in the future. According to our foreign minister, this Russian provocation was only an "unpleasant incident." The minister even managed to find some "positive tendencies"—it turns out that servicemen are leaving Kaliningrad Oblast rather than entering it, as though there was a shortage of soldiers in Uznemune [reference to Lithuanian territory lying between the Nemunas river and Kaliningrad Oblast].

One may only guess what P. Gyls lacked on Tuesday—the courage to lodge a protest with Russia or a simple knowledge of diplomatic rules. The minister may have simply forgotten how the chief diplomat of an independent state should behave in such cases....

Baltic States To Step Up Security Cooperation

LD0803170294 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in
Lithuanian 1000 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Report from Stockholm by Audrius Braukyla]

[Text] Government leaders of the three Baltic states have decided to step up cooperation in the security field. This was reported by Linas Linkevicius, minister of national defense, after a meeting with Valdis Birkavs and Mart Laar in the Latvian Embassy in Stockholm yesterday afternoon. According to Linas Linkevicius, it has been agreed to coordinate at top governmental level the issues of airspace and border control of the Baltic states.

The minister of national defense also pointed out that the Lithuanian delegation bound themselves at the meeting to prepare a draft treaty of the states on the peace-keeping battalion.

During the meeting negotiations were held by the leaders of the three governments on the development of the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian power engineering system. In this respect, according to Linas Linkevicius, his conversation with Danish Prime Minister Poul Rasmussen yesterday was worth mentioning. They talked about the possibility of the Baltic states tapping into the gas supply system of the Nordic states.

According to the leader of the Lithuanian delegation, the Danish prime minister would regard positively the possibility of supplying gas to Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia from Denmark.

Much attention at the meeting was given to the problem of speeding up the negotiations between Russia and Latvia and Estonia. Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar told Lithuanian Radio that his country feels strong support from Lithuania on issues concerning the withdrawal of Russian troops. Mart Laar believes that in the future, when the Russian troops have been withdrawn from Latvia and Estonia, one of the greatest problems for the security of the Baltic states may be the large concentration of Russian troops deployed in the Kaliningrad region and the question of their transit.

At the moment the delegations from the governments of the Baltic states are taking part in debates currently under way at the session of the Council of Ministers of the Nordic States.

Russian Military Transit Requirements Rejected

LD0803160694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Russia wants military transit through Lithuania to be carried out by rail and road and by air transport. This was noted by Virgilijus Bulovas, the head of the Lithuanian working group for negotiations with the CIS countries, in an interview with Lithuanian television, where he commented on a draft agreement on military transit received recently from Russia.

As already reported, the negotiating group adopted a decision at its meeting that the draft submitted by Russia could be examined only after the Lithuanian Seimas passes a law on the transportation of military and dangerous loads through the territory of Lithuania. Bulovas noted that, in the opinion of Lithuanian experts, only military transit by rail can be discussed. Transit by road would be unacceptable to Lithuania; separate international regulations exist for air transport and permits for flights must be obtained at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the opinion of Bulovas, Lithuania therefore cannot sign a separate agreement on military transit with

Russia. Regulations are the same for all countries, whether it is NATO or Russia, said the head of the working group.

According to him, the working group is at present preparing regulations for the transportation of dangerous loads by rail through the territory of Lithuania. In addition, Bulovas noted, Lithuania has no two borders with Russia. Therefore it will be necessary to conclude either a tripartite agreement among Russia, Belarus, and Lithuania, or three separate bilateral agreements. Bulovas also noted that Russia has been lately making an extensive use of sea transit. According to him, this is confirmed by the fact that there are fewer transportations by rail than planned.

Group Meets for Talks With CIS, Views Transit

WS0903112894 Vilnius ELTA in English 1824 GMT 8 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 452]

[Text] Vilnius, March 8, ELTA—Lithuanian working group for negotiations with CIS countries had a meeting at the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday [8 March]. The group discussed the issues of legalization of transit regulations.

The group made a conclusion that common regulations on the dangerous and military transit through Lithuanian territory for all the countries should be established in accordance with the international conventions. They decided to form a group of experts which would draft a law on dangerous and military transit through Lithuanian territory.

The working group also got acquainted with the draft on transit presented by Russia and decided that it could be considered just after Seimas [parliament] enacted the law on transit.

French Embassy Denies 'Wrong Information' on Arms Transfer

WS0703135494 Vilnius ELTA in English 0828 GMT 5 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 450]

[Text] Vilnius, March 4, ELTA—French embassy informed ELTA it denied a wrong information published in the daily "LIETUVOS RYTAS" (March 2, 1994) about Lithuanian-French military co-operation.

The embassy said that in January, 1993, French authorities presented Lithuanian Army a great amount of military technique [as received] and paid all its shipping expenses. The gifts included one complete field hospital similar to those now used by the French Army in former Yugoslavia as well as communications equipment, not the most modern but still used in some French gendarmerie units and possible to use in a case of a possible mobilization.

The embassy also said 30 jeeps used for four years and technically in order with spare parts had been presented. Last November, a delegation of French technicians had visited Lithuania seeking to arrange one more package of spare parts.

Report on Armaments Deemed 'State Secret'

WS0403211494 Tallinn BNS in English 1915 GMT
4 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 04, BNS—Members of the Lithuanian parliament's National Security Committee blame their colleague for revealing "a state secret."

As previously reported, the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper on Wednesday [2 March] published an article about armaments used by the Lithuanian field army. The report was based on information provided by MP Kestutis Gaska, who is a member of the committee and recently left the parliamentary faction of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP].

In the opinion of some other committee members, the information published by the newspaper is a state secret.

Vytautas Petkevicius, chairman of the committee, told the LIETUVOS AIDAS newspaper that he would not provide any such information to the press and described Gaska as an "emotional" lawmaker with a "great imagination." The committee chairman, who is a member of the ruling LDDP faction, said "you cannot put handcuffs on him and you cannot stop him from talking."

But in Petkevicius' opinion, Gaska's critical remarks about the quality of the army equipment donated by some foreign countries are correct.

LIETUVOS RYTAS, referring to Gaska's words, said the 30 jeeps that were donated by the French government are meant for a tropical climate and can be used in Lithuania only 3 or 4 months a year.

On Thursday, the French embassy in Vilnius circulated a press release saying that "it would be a pity if polemics based on erroneous information would cast a shadow on military cooperation between France and Lithuania."

The embassy said the jeeps were still used by the French army only four years ago and denied that they are meant only for hot climatic conditions.

Petkevicius said he personally attended the ceremony during which the jeeps were handed over to Lithuania and it "would have been impolite not to accept them." He noted, however, that the jeeps were made in 1942, they use 27 liters of gasoline per 100 kilometers and can only "be sold to a museum of antiques."

Petkevicius is also very skeptical about the automatic rifles from Israel which are suitable "not to shoot but to sow bullets." LIETUVOS AIDAS quotes the lawmaker as saying that donated batteries for communication

equipment are also old and should have been "buried in the ground" back where they came from.

Deputies Protest Planned Radioactive Waste Storage

WS0803155294 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian
26 Feb 94 No. 39 p 5

[Report by Ruta Skatikaite: "Local Rather Than Seimas Deputies Are Concerned With the Ignalina Plant"]

[Text] Having demanded information about the planned construction of a monstrous storage site for radioactive waste, local deputies expressed their doubt in the need for such a facility two and a half years ago. This affected energy specialists who later abandoned this outdated project. Ignalina deputies are now concerned with choosing a site for containers of radioactive fuel. Participants in a 23 February meeting of local deputies with Energy Deputy Minister S. Kutas and V. Shevaldin, director of the Ignalina nuclear power plant, discussed the expediency of enlarging the area of the radioactive waste storage yard in Lithuania. Are imports of radioactive waste—which bring only modest income to energy workers and leave the most dangerous source of radiation in Lithuania for centuries—permissible? Why has the foundation for managing the nuclear plant after its closure not yet been established, even though the plant has 10-15 years of operation remaining? Why are research studies about the concentration of radioactive materials in the air, water, and soil not publicized? Why are the health of people living near the Ignalina plant and the possible changes in their bodies not examined?

Since the energy minister has not submitted any definite proposals concerning the future of the nuclear station, local deputies protest against the increase in radioactive waste on their territory. Moreover, they are interested in benefits for people living within a 30-km radius of the plant. They also demand that bonuses for discomfort be paid not only to employees of budget organizations, but also to all inhabitants.

Deputies will also adopt a final decision at their session in mid-March.

Ignalina Power Station Unit Resumes Operation

LD0703145894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in
Lithuanian 1000 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The second power unit at the Ignalina power station was put back into operation last night.

Genadiy Negrivoda, chief engineer at the nuclear power station, told the Baltic News Service correspondent that all the work was carried out smoothly and according to the planned schedule.

Today the second power unit is operating with the capacity of 700 MW and the first unit at 1,000 MW. According to Mr. Negrivoda this amount of power is sufficient for the needs of consumers, therefore, neither

of the units is operating at the maximum capacity of 1,300 MW. [Passage omitted]

Mr. Negrivoda also said that the first unit of the nuclear power station is to be shut down at the beginning of April for routine maintenance.

This year as a result of minor malfunction the first and the second reactors at the Ignalina nuclear station were shut down on 18 and 29 of January.

Ignalina Director on Aid for Upgrading Security

*WS0803162694 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian
1 Mar 94 No. 40 p 5*

[Report by Ruta Skatikaite on news conference by V. Shevaldin, director of the Ignalina nuclear power plant, with unidentified reporters on 25 February; place not given: "Foreign Experts and P. Globa Will Assess the Ignalina AE"]

[Text] On Friday [25 February], V. Shevaldin, director of the Ignalina nuclear power plant [AE], held a press conference in which he told about his recent meetings in Moscow, London, and Paris concerning the plant's security. The meetings were also attended by representatives of the Lithuanian Energy Ministry, the Energy Institute, and the Ignalina AE. The most important meeting took place in London where an agreement was signed with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on a 32-million ECU [European currency unit] gift aid for the AE.

"The Donors' Council drafted a new agreement on this gift aid," said V. Shevaldin, "because Lithuania had not signed the draft agreement discussed in December due to its categorical demand to shut down one block. The conditions for aid contained in the new draft agreement satisfied both Lithuania and the Donors' Council. There are two of them: Both blocks at the Ignalina AE will be used until the year 2004 according to the technical possibilities of the tubes; foreign experts must prepare a report on the security of both blocks by 30 July 1995. After receiving this report, the State Atomic Energy Inspection will consider the matter of issuing a license for the station. It is very important that Lithuania retain the right to judge whether to issue a license or not."

[Reporter] What will the acquired currency be used for?

[Shevaldin] We coordinated and approved the scope of work with the bank. This work will be performed by companies selected through competition. The European Bank has begun to organize an international bid on the establishment of a special group that will regulate relations with future contractors. Seventeen companies from all over the world have expressed the desire to participate in the competition. It will be decided over the coming days which company will supervise the implementation of the project in cooperation with AE specialists.

[Reporter] Would you define the key lines financed by the European Bank?

[Shevaldin] Eighteen lines have been established. Most of them are linked with the acquisition of equipment controlling the key technological points. There are plans to create radio monitoring that would allow receiving constant operative information about the radiological state of the plant and its environment. Some very important lines are associated with the closure of the reactor due to the reduced utilization of water in technological tubes, as well as with the design of new emergency stoppage systems. It is very pitiable that the Donors' Council did not agree to include in the agreement such issues concerning the AE security as the acquisition of several containers for fuel waste, cementing and processing of radioactive resins, and the purchase of a press for solid waste with low radioactivity.

[Reporter] After your return from the trip, you must have read the prophecies of clairvoyant P. Globa about the possible accident in the second block. Did this week's unscheduled stoppage of this block occur because of this prophecy?

[Shevaldin] No, we did not close the second block because of Globa's prophecies. We noticed a slight increase in radioactivity in an area near the reactor, where one cannot get while the block is operating. Since routine two-month repair work at the first block begins in a month, we decided to remove the fault now in order to avoid the closure of the entire plant. I have never said that such prophecies as P. Globa's are nonsensical. I myself do not have extrasensory perception skills, therefore, I cannot feel things like he does. We have requested the nuclear plant in Rovno to send us all relevant information, because P. Globa prophesied an accident there as well. Moreover, we have written a letter to the clairvoyant inviting him to the station and promising to cover all travel expenses. There will be nothing bad if we conduct an additional inspection of the plant with this man. If he does not arrive, we will have to think that he himself does not believe in his prophecies, or that he simply does not care about any accident.

Ruling Faction Sums Up Results of Activities

*WS0803195794 Tallinn BNS in English 1712 GMT
8 Mar 94*

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 08, BNS—Summing up the results of its work over the past year, the parliamentary faction of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP] said the opposition is weak and needs help to become more constructive.

The LDLP faction has an absolute majority in the Lithuanian parliament - 72 seats out of 140. On Monday [7 March], the faction began a series of closed meetings to analyze its own activities, as well as the work of the government and the opposition. The faction also intends to hold elections of its chairman.

Although the meetings are closed, the leftist TIESA newspaper reported several details from a speech made by Justinas Karosas, the faction's current chairman.

Karosas reportedly said that although the LDLP is a social democratic party in a post communist country, it must also fulfil non-social democratic tasks because such is the reality.

The return to power is both an aim and a means for the opposition, he said. In Karosas' opinion, the opposition is weak and must be stimulated to make its activities more constructive.

Discussing the faction's relations with the government, Karosas said they are difficult because the government does not always want to be controlled by the faction.